



**9** days left to Christmas

Happy Holidays



On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, December 17, 2010



## Leaking Wiki



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange speaks as he leaves Britain's High Court Thursday Dec. 16, 2010 in London, England.

Page A14

**Price of a barrel of petroleum**

**US\$ 87.70**

↓ 0.92

## Obama claims major progress

President Barack Obama delivers a statement in the Brady Press Briefing room in the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010, on the the Afghanistan-Pakistan Annual Review. From left are, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Vice President Joe Biden, the president, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Marine Gen. James Cartwright.

Associated Press

A13

## Baby cribs outlawed

WASHINGTON – It's the end of the traditional crib that has cradled millions of babies for generations.

The government outlawed drop-side cribs on Wednesday after the deaths of more than 30 infants and toddlers in the past decade and millions of recalls.

It was a unanimous vote by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban the manufacture, sale and resale of the cribs, which have a side rail that moves up and down, allowing parents to more easily lift their child from the crib.

The new standard requiring cribs to have fixed sides would take effect in June. The move by CPSC would also prohibit hotels and childcare centers from using drop-sides, though those facilities would have two years to purchase new cribs.

Continued on Page A2





## Duty Free Perfumes and Cosmetics



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By MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA – In a test case of whether breast cancer fundraising bracelets that proclaim “I (heart) boobies!” can be banned in public schools, one district is calling the slogan a sexually charged double entendre.

The free-speech case involves Easton Area Middle School, whose seventh-grade principal struggled on the witness stand Thursday when asked if T-shirts with the words “breast cancer” should be permitted on the school’s Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

The middle school, a 90-minute drive north of

## Pa. girls fight bracelet ban in US court

Philadelphia, suspended two girls in October for refusing to remove the colorful rubber bracelets, which have become wildly popular among teens across the country.

Some school officials are far less enthusiastic. But the Easton Area School District is the first to try to defend a ban in court, according to the Keep A Breast Foundation, the small Carlsbad, Calif., nonprofit that sells the bracelets to engage young people in breast cancer awareness.

In U.S. court Thursday, a school district lawyer asked the suspended girls, Brianna Hawk and Kayla Martinez, if they wore the bracelets as fashion statements or simply to make waves by defying a school rule.

The girls, whose mothers supported the protest, acknowledged they celebrated with high-fives as they were called down to the principal’s office.

Martinez testified they were “proud of standing up for what we believed in.”

“Ever since I got that bracelet I’ve been researching breast cancer,” the seventh-grader said. “Anybody that gets this disease ... could die from it. It’s very tragic.”

The girls were suspended for what the school considered “disruption, defiance and disrespect” — although they were previously told they had violated the school dress code. According to the school district, the bracelets prompted at least two boys to try to touch girls inappropriately.

“Do you think boys would have a natural attraction to girls’ breasts?” school district lawyer John E. Freund III asked Hawk in one of the day’s more awkward moments.

They do, Hawk agreed. But the confidant eighth-

grader did not buy his double-entendre theory.

“I don’t see a double meaning,” she testified.

The girls, who each said they knew someone who had suffered from breast cancer, take part in sports and other activities. They each served a 1 1/2-day suspension.

The discipline came with a longer ban on school activities, but U.S. District Judge Mary McLaughlin persuaded Easton officials to let them attend a recent dance while the case plays out.

Schools from Florida to California also have tried to ban the bracelets. The American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the Pennsylvania girls on free-speech grounds and described them as good students, successfully intervened without filing suit in a few other districts.

The ACLU admits the “boobies” slogan may be irreverent but says it falls far short of the obscene or profane speech the U.S. Supreme Court permits schools to ban.

Hawk testified that where she grew up, “my family, they call (breasts) boobies. Other people might call them other things.”

The students want the judge to lift the bracelet ban and expunge their disciplinary records. The judge was not expected to rule Thursday.

The Keep A Breast Foundation has grown from about three employees to seven in the past few years, marketing manager Kimmy McAtee testified. The group spends about 13 percent of its revenues on overhead, and the top salary is \$45,000 a year, she said. The foundation gets \$1.50 from each bracelet sold by an outside retailer and \$4 from its own online or event sales. □

### BABY CRIB

*Continued from Front Page*

CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum hailed the new standard for cribs as one of the strongest in the world.

“I believe these new standards will markedly reduce crib-related hazards and help to ensure that young children sleep more safely in their cribs,” Tenenbaum said after the vote. Around for decades, drop-side cribs have come under scrutiny in recent years because of malfunctioning hardware, sometimes cheaper plastics, or assembly problems that can lead to the drop-side rail partially detaching from the crib. When that happens, it can create a dangerous “V”-like gap between the mattress

and side rail where a baby can get caught and suffocate or strangle.

In all, drop-side cribs have been blamed in the deaths of at least 32 infants and toddlers since 2000 and are suspected in another 14 infant fatalities. In the past five years, more than 9 million drop-side cribs have been recalled, including cribs from big-name companies such as Evenflo, Delta Enterprise Corp., and Pottery Barn Kids.

Michele Witte of Merrick, N.Y., lost her 10-month-old son, Tyler, in 1997 when the drop-side rail on his crib came loose, partially detached and then trapped his neck between the rail and the headboard.

“It’s been a long 13 years,”

said Witte. “I feel like it’s a celebratory time because things are finally being done about the issue.”

Witte appeared at a news conference on Capitol Hill with Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., and Rep. Joe Crowley, D-N.Y., all of whom have pushed for stronger crib safety rules.

The new standard mandates tougher safety testing for cribs, tests that more closely mimic a child in a crib. As children get older, they can apply more force to the crib — shaking on it, running around in it, jumping up and down. The new tests aim to make sure the cribs can take that kind of pressure. □



Michele Witte of Merrick, N.Y. holds a picture of her son, Tyler, who died when he was ten months old, in a drop-side crib in 1997 after one of the side rails came loose, during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Dec 15, 2010. The government outlawed drop-side cribs after the deaths of more than 30 infants and toddlers in the past decade and millions of recalls.



# Icy roads make for dangerous driving in South

By TOM FOREMAN JR.

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Snow, sleet and freezing rain wreaked havoc across the South on Thursday, causing hundreds of accidents, three fatal, and forcing schools to start late, close early, or cancel classes altogether.

Three people died in separate weather-related crashes in North Carolina. Thousands of people there and in Virginia lost power, and West Virginia's acting governor was forced to cancel a Christmas party scheduled for Thursday night at the Governor's Mansion.

In metro Atlanta and north Georgia, icy conditions Thursday morning prompted road closures a day after slick surfaces caused hundreds of accidents. Temperatures had warmed and the ice had melted by midday.

Ice also covered roads early Thursday in Louisville, Ky., and parts of Tennessee. Those who ventured out had to allow time to clear ice that coated nearly everything, from cars to walkways to the sides of buildings.

"I'm just chipping away," said Tim Olson of Louisville, who was getting the ice off his truck Thursday morning. "It looks slick. I hope it isn't too bad."

In Missouri, the freezing

rain began Wednesday night and continued into Thursday morning, with the Missouri State Highway Patrol reporting numerous accidents. In Ohio, plows were out in counties near the Ohio River. A spokeswoman for Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport said airlines were experiencing weather delays and cancellations. Cincinnati schools were closed because of warnings about slick roads. "Although it's unusual to have to call off school because of wintry conditions this early in the school year, student safety always comes first," said superintendent Mary Ronan. Meanwhile, snow was also falling or expected in Philadelphia and parts of New York state.

In Washington, D.C., where 3 inches of snow was forecast, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said the runway at Reagan National Airport closed temporarily so crews could clear snow. Flights were operating, but officials warned of possible delays.

Western New York was getting a respite from heavy lake-effect snow storms but forecasters said central parts of the state would get pounded for another day. Weather-related accidents shut down



Interstate 81 northbound in the Syracuse area for more than two hours, state police said.

In Florida, farmers around the state were still assessing how cold weather earlier this week affected crops.

Tropical fish and strawberry farmers in the central part of the state reported some losses Wednesday, but the full extent of the cold damage won't be known for a few weeks. Citrus growers were more optimistic, saying they avoided a citrus freeze. □

## Sand barriers pronounced a waste of money



In this Dec. 15, 2010 aerial photo from a southwings.org flight, berm construction by the State of Louisiana is seen along the Chandeleur Islands, in the Gulf of Mexico. The big set of sand barriers erected by Louisiana's governor to protect the coastline at the height of the Gulf oil spill is being criticized by a presidential commission as a colossal, \$200 million waste of money so far.

By CAIN BURDEAU

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The big set of sand barriers erected

by Louisiana's governor to protect the coastline at the height of the Gulf oil spill was criticized by a presidential

commission Thursday as a colossal, \$200 million waste of BP's money so far. Hardly any oil ever reached the berms, government documents obtained by The Associated Press show. Gov. Bobby Jindal, who pushed the venture over the objections of scientists and federal agencies, has strongly defended it. And despite the commission's scathing report, he plans to move ahead with the project, though with some changes to make it more beneficial.

In its stinging report, the commission said that its staff can "comfortably conclude that the decision to green-light the underwhelmingly effective, overwhelmingly expensive Louisiana berms project was flawed." □

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Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, left, looks at photographs found in the possession of Lonnie David Franklin Jr. during a news conference in Los Angeles, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010. Bracing for a flood of tips from the public, detectives released dozens of photographs of unidentified women that were found at the home of the suspected 'Grim Sleeper' serial killer.

160 Jane Doe photos

## 'Grim Sleeper' pics released

By THOMAS WATKINS

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles police have released dozens of photographs of unidentified women that were found at the home of a suspect in the "Grim Sleeper" serial killings.

The photos were released Thursday.

Detectives hope members of the public will recognize some of the roughly 160 subjects in the photos and let authorities know of their whereabouts.

Photos and hundreds of hours of home video were found during a search of Lonnie Franklin's home in South Los Angeles in July.

Franklin has pleaded not guilty to killing 10 women from 1985 to 1988 and from 2002 to 2007. An apparent 14-year pause between crimes led investigators to dub the killer the "Grim Sleeper."

However, authorities have said they don't know whether there may be other victims.

Investigators hope that members of public recognize some of the roughly 160 subjects in the photos, and let authorities know of their whereabouts.

"Now that we know who he is and what type of activity he is involved in with women, we are very concerned for everyone in

these photographs," Detective Dennis Kilcoyne said. "We don't know what we are going to learn today."

Detectives found the photos, along with hundreds of hours of home video, when they searched Lonnie Franklin Jr.'s South Los Angeles home in July. The 180 or so photos depict about 160 women, since some women are shown in more than one photo.

Franklin has pleaded not guilty to the murders of 10 women from 1985 to 1988 and from 2002 to 2007. The apparent 14-year pause in the alleged crimes led to the nickname "Grim Sleeper," though detectives suspect Franklin could be involved in many other deaths.

The women in the photos appear to be a wide range of ages, Kilcoyne said.

In the photos, some of which are sexually explicit, the women appear to be willing participants, he said. Only closely cropped versions of the photos are being released. "It baffles me how he is so successful at getting women to do what he asks them to do," Kilcoyne said. "It's not like we have pictures of him holding a knife to someone's neck."

Kilcoyne said investigators found photographs throughout Franklin's house, including many in his garage and cars.

"Some looked like they were purposely put in areas so the family didn't find them," Kilcoyne said. "Some were fallen behind items — cabinets and walls — others had been purposely secreted away."

All of Franklin's alleged victims were killed within a few miles of his home, where neighbors knew him as a talented backyard mechanic. Police also have said they suspect Franklin of killing a man who may have discovered he was a killer. In addition, they are reviewing more than 30 other cold-case files to see if they can tie Franklin to other slayings.

Franklin was taken into custody last summer after his son was arrested and swabbed for DNA. Using a technique known as a familial DNA search, the sample came back as similar to evidence in the serial killings, ultimately leading police to Franklin.

In a different case, Huntington Beach detectives in March were inundated with hundreds of phone calls and e-mails after they released more than 100 photos discovered in serial killer Rodney Alcala's storage locker after his 1979 arrest.

The photos were released after Alcala was convicted of the murders of four women and a 12-year-old girl. He later was sentenced to death.

## Secret Santa spreads joy, disbelief

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Secret Santa II hit the streets Tuesday in a long-standing Kansas City tradition of handing out \$100 bills — sometimes several at a time — to unsuspecting strangers in thrift stores, food pantries and shelters. Some people gasped in surprise. Some wanted to know if the \$100 bill the tall man in the red cap offered was fake. Others wept. Secret Santa II has seen a lot of reactions since taking over where his mentor, Kansas City's original Secret Santa, Larry Stewart, left off when he died in 2007 at age 58. Like Stewart, who gave away more than \$1 million to strangers each December in mostly \$100 bills, this Secret Santa prefers to stay anonymous. A fake white beard taped to his face, Secret Santa II handed out about \$10,000 in total Tuesday. Recipients included a police officer with terminal cancer, a homeless man pushing a rickety old shopping cart, an 81-year-old woman who had recently told her 27 grandchildren she wouldn't be able to afford any Christmas gifts, and Bernadette Turner, a 32-year-old unemployed mother of two. "It's hard to come by," Turner said looking in disbelief at the \$200 Secret Santa had given her. "I can only afford one gift for each child. But now ...." she said, wiping tears from her cheeks and reaching out for a hug.

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Army Lt. Col. Terrence Lakin of Greeley, Colo. leaves a military court during a break in his court-martial proceeding Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 at Fort Meade, Md. Lakin is being tried for allegedly refusing to deploy to Afghanistan because he does not believe that President Barack Obama was born in the United States and therefore questions his eligibility to be commander in chief.

## Lt. Col. Lakin Convicted of disobeying orders

# Military Doctor jailed, fired for questioning Obama

By JESSICA GRESKO

Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Md. — An Army doctor who disobeyed orders to deploy to Afghanistan because he questioned President Barack Obama's eligibility to be commander in chief was sentenced by a jury Thursday to six months in a military prison and will be dismissed from the Army.

The military jury spent nearly five hours deliberating punishment for Lt. Col. Terrence Lakin on Thursday after three days of court martial proceedings at Fort Meade, outside Baltimore, Md.

Lakin was convicted of disobeying orders — he had pleaded guilty to that count — and missing a flight that would have gotten him to his eventual deployment. An army commander, Maj. Gen. Karl Horst, still has to approve the sentence returned by the jury and has the option to reduce it. Lakin could then appeal.

In online videos posted on YouTube, Lakin aligned himself with the so-called "birther" movement that questions whether Obama is a natural-born citizen,

as the Constitution requires for presidents, and said he was inviting his own court martial.

But Lakin said Wednesday that despite his questions about Obama's eligibility for office, he was wrong not to follow Army orders. He acknowledged that the Army was the wrong place to raise his concerns about Obama, asked to keep his job and said he was now willing to deploy.

"I don't want it to end this way," Lakin told the jury Wednesday under questioning from his lawyer. "I want to continue to serve."

Military prosecutors disagreed. On Thursday morning, a military prosecutor asked the jury to sentence Lakin to at least two years in a military prison and to dismiss him from the service. It was a sentence he "invited and he earned," military prosecutor Capt. Philip J. O'Beirne told the jury.

The prosecutor said Lakin had other options such as resigning or asking not to be deployed if he had issues with his orders. Instead, he used his deployment earlier this year as a political play,

O'Beirne said, going to great lengths to create a "spectacle" by informing people of what he was doing.

"He knew exactly what he was doing and he did it anyway," O'Beirne told the jury, asking members to send a message with their sentence and telling them they could "write the headline" that appears in papers about Lakin.

But Lakin's defense attorney, Neal Puckett, asked the jury to be lenient, calling Lakin's case unique. He described the 17-year veteran as giving, compassionate and patriotic but also naive in trusting the poor advice of a previous civilian lawyer. He called Lakin the "victim of an obsession," referring to questions about Obama's eligibility, and said he made "one bad decision on one day of his career."

Puckett asked the jury to consider Lakin's wife and three children at Christmas and said he should be allowed to stay in the Army because of his value as a doctor.

"Make him work off his debt to the Army," Puckett said, suggesting Lakin could be sent on multiple deployments. □



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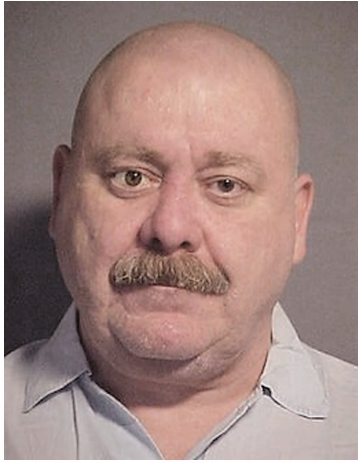
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## Okla. set to execute inmate with substitute drug



**John Duty is shown. Duty is scheduled to be executed on Thursday. Duty was convicted of the Dec. 19, 2001, killing of 22-year-old Curtis Wise, who was Duty's cellmate at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester.**

By SEAN MURPHY

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma officials said they were ready to execute a convicted murderer Thursday using a drug combination that includes a sedative commonly used to euthanize animals, after a nationwide shortage of a key ingredient forced the state to tinker with the usual formula.

John David Duty, who was sentenced to die for strangling his cellmate nearly a decade

ago, is believed to be the first person in the United States whose execution will include the use of pentobarbital. He was set to die at 6 p.m. at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester.

Oklahoma corrections officials said they were certain the lethal injection would be successful and they were confident in the experts who had testified during legal proceedings about its plans.

Duty, 58, and two other death-row inmates had challenged the state's decision to use pentobarbital, arguing that it could be inhumane because a person could be paralyzed but still aware when a painful third drug is administered to stop the heart. On Tuesday, a federal appeals court upheld a ruling against the other two inmates. Duty did not take part in the appeal.

Several states have been scrambling since Hospira Inc. — the only U.S. manufacturer of the barbiturate normally used in executions — said new batches of sodium thiopental would not be available until at least January.

Oklahoma obtained a dose of sodium thiopental from

Arkansas for its last execution in October, but couldn't secure any more, said Oklahoma Department of Corrections spokesman Jerry Massie.

Executions have been delayed in California, Arkansas, Tennessee and Maryland as a result of protocol changes, including the use of new drugs, said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center. In Ohio and Washington, laws were passed to allow for the use of sodium thiopental alone, he said. But Oklahoma's law calls for the use of a fast-acting barbiturate to be administered first, which gave the state the flexibility to use pentobarbital, Massie said.

"I think Oklahoma is the only state where this issue has come to a head over a new drug," Dieter said. "The other states that haven't been able to do it, it's because the state courts wanted more time to review the overall protocol changes."

Experts testified at a November federal court hearing that no other U.S. state uses pentobarbital during executions. Massie and Dieter both said Thursday that they believed Duty would be the first U.S. inmate put to death using the drug.

"I have not seen that (pentobarbital) has been used before in this context," Dieter said. But, he noted, "Some states don't say exactly what drugs are used and have kept that out of the public eye."

Dieter also acknowledged that China, which is increasingly favoring lethal injection as a method of execution, may have used the drug before.

Jim Rowan, a capital defense attorney and a board member of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, said he's concerned there is little evidence about the use of the drug on humans. He also echoed arguments raised by defense attorneys that it's possible an inmate could be conscious but paralyzed when the other drugs are administered.

"No one who has been put to death has come back and testified about what it felt like," Rowan said. □

## U.S. BRIEFS

### Freedom Tower Reaches Halfway Mark



NEW YORK (AP) — Steel construction has reached the halfway point for 1 World Trade Center, the building that many people still call the Freedom Tower.

After years of stalled development, steel at the building reached the 52nd story on Thursday, more than 600 feet above ground.

The tower is slated to stand at 104 stories, with an antenna reaching hundreds of feet higher, bringing it to a symbolic 1,776 feet - the tallest in the city.

The building was renamed to better attract corporate tenants.

But the Freedom Tower name has stuck for many, and still remains on the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation's website detailing the rebuilding.

The skyscraper is one of several envisioned at a rebuilt site, along with a Sept. 11 memorial, transit hub and performing arts center.

### US tracking threats during holidays

WASHINGTON — Counterterrorism officials are tracking threats to the U.S. and Europe from al-Qaida and affiliated groups during the holiday season, authorities said. They have not yet seen evidence of specific plots aimed at the U.S. The FBI and Homeland Security Department have alerted state and local law enforcement to be wary of suspicious behavior and to regularly change security measures to interfere with any terrorist plans. The warning was sent in a bulletin Wednesday, obtained by The Associated Press. It did not include information about specific plots or intelligence.

On Saturday, a suicide bomber blew himself up on a pedestrian street in Stockholm, Sweden, killing himself and injuring two people. Iraqi officials say that captured insurgents said this week that the suicide bombing was part of attacks being planned by al-Qaida against the U.S. and Europe during the Christmas season.

There is specific intelligence on other attacks being planned against Europe during the holiday season, according to U.S. officials speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters.

While intelligence officials have not uncovered specific details of threats aimed at the U.S., they cannot be ruled out, the officials said.

Still, the spate of attempted attacks against the U.S. in the past year — particularly the Nigerian man charged with trying to take down an airplane last Christmas — has U.S. officials on high alert. □

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# Aruba ready for expected boost in economy



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's economy will receive an expected boost with the coming arrival of a guaranteed supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) for power generation. Officials with the Valero Aruba Refinery and the Government of Aruba announced Monday the signing of a memorandum of understanding to deliver LNG to Aruba, with the aim of helping to reduce utility costs and lower emissions on the island.

At the time of the signing, Valero executives also announced that the Valero Aruba Refinery has completed a plantwide program to get refinery units ready to restart, and that the restart process will begin within the next several days.

Both announcements represent a boost to Aruba's economy. Generating power through liquefied natural gas rather than more expensive fuel oil has significant



potential to reduce costs both for the refinery and the island. Prime Minister Mike Eman and Minister of Finance & Energy Mike de Meza, who are both actively working on this project, also see an important synergy between Aruba and Valero in this endeavor.

Valero, an international manufacturer and marketer of transportation fuels, petrochemical products and power, stated that it had spent more than US\$90 million so far getting the refinery ready to operate. The restart comes nearly 18 months after it was shut down in July 2009 for economic reasons and uncertainty in the tax regime going forward. The restart was supported in part by the settlement agreement reached with the Government of Aruba and approved by the Parliament of Aruba last May. Throughout the shutdown, employees remained on the payrolls, and in June 2010, Valero announced that the tax settlement along with an improved economy had made it possible to consider

restarting the refinery. A plantwide "turnaround," or thorough maintenance period, was begun shortly afterward. Now that the turnaround work has been completed, Valero has determined that market conditions support the refinery's operation.

"We are very happy to announce that the refinery, which is a crucial part of Aruba's economy, will soon be in operation," said Kim Bowers, Valero's Executive Vice President and General Counsel. "We would like to thank our employees and our contractors for all their hard work getting the plant ready to

operate safely and efficiently, and we appreciate the efforts of Prime Minister Mike Eman and Finance Minister Mike de Meza that have made this day possible."

The refinery employs more than 650 people full time, and refinery investments and financial impact represent more than 12 percent of Aruba's gross domestic product.

The startup process will begin on selected refinery units and will continue through December, with the expectation that all refinery units will be operating fully by the end of January. □





# Oreo at El Gaucho



ORANJESTAD – Aruba's favorite band OREO, took some time off this week to celebrate the season at El Gaucho.

While enjoying the Argentine cuisine they were entertained by strolling guitarist duo, Carlos &

Jonathan Sanchez.

OREO band leader Claudius Phillips calls Garufa Ultra Lounge, across from El Gaucho Argentine Grill and under the same management, his home every Wednesday as he entertains locals



and tourists with his vast repertoire of local, Caribbean, Latin, Golden Oldies and Top 40s. Pictured here the band ready to indulge their passion for food, over the best and biggest steaks on the island. □



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# Amsterdam Manor takes a trip to Argentina



ORANJESTAD — The award-winning boutique hotel on Eagle Beach invited its associates to celebrate Christmas over dinner at El Gaucho Argentine Grill. Owner Jurgen & Selva van Schaijk and Food and Beverage Director Mark Giesbers, escorted by his wife, thanked their employees for their valuable contributions over the year and wished them a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. Amsterdam Manor breceived a number of environmental recognitions this year, including the Green Globe certification, the 10th year in a row, thanks to a joint employee effort. The celebration at El Gaucho featured fantastic food and the special attention by appreciated by everybody. □





# La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club hosts a Christmas Gala



ORANJESTAD – The annual Christmas Gala unfolded at the Renaissance Convention Center entertaining associates and members of management at an exciting Jungle-themed party. Party emcee Jessica Franken



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Dec 12&19: 10am-2pm  
Dec 25 & 26: Closed  
Dec 31: 9am-12.30pm

Jan 1: Closed

### MARRIOTT OCEAN CLUB

L.G. Smith Blvd. #99  
586-6506

#### PERFUMERY

Mon-Sat: 9am-9pm  
Sun: 9am-5pm

Dec 25: Closed  
Dec 26: 9am-5pm  
Dec 31: 9am-6pm

Jan 1: Closed

### PASEO HERENCIA MALL

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. #382-A  
586-2113

#### PERFUMERY

Mon-Thurs: 10am-10pm  
Fri-Sat: 10am-11pm  
Sun: 5pm-11pm

Dec 25: Closed  
Dec 26: 5pm-11pm  
Dec 31: 10am-6pm

Jan 1: 5pm-10pm

#### SALON

Mon-Sat: 10am-8pm  
Sun: 5pm-9pm

Dec 25: Closed  
Dec 26: 5pm-9pm  
Dec 31: 10am-6pm

Jan 1: 5pm-9pm

### RENAISSANCE MARKET PLACE

L.G. Smith Blvd. #9  
583-6108

#### SALON

Mon-Sat: 9am-8pm  
Sun: 10am-2pm

Dec 24: 9am-6pm  
Dec 25: Closed  
Dec 26: 10am-2pm  
Dec 31: 9am-1pm

Jan 1: Closed

### EXPRESS, SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz #52  
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#### SALON

Mon: 2pm-6pm  
Tue-Sat: 9am-6pm

Dec 19: 9am-2pm  
Dec 25 & 26: Closed  
Dec 31: 9am-2pm

Jan 1: Closed

### SAN NICOLAS

Bernardstraat #101  
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#### PERFUMERY

Mon-Sat: 10am-6pm  
Wed: 2pm-6pm  
Sun: Closed

Dec 19: 10am-2pm  
Dec 25&26: Closed  
Dec 31: 10am-1pm

Jan 1: Closed



**Merry Christmas**

welcomed the elegantly dressed party-goers, which were greeted at the door by General Manager Joe Najjar, his Executive Committee and all Department Heads.

Goza Gaita opened the evening's program with traditional music, and Santa Claus was available family portraits. During the music break Najjar had the pleasure to introduce some special award winners starting with the Most Mentioned Associate of 2010, and the associate with the Best Smile. An extra recognition was bestowed on three associates with a Perfect Attendance record for over 15 years.

In house committees which excelled at their assignments were also recognized with honors going to the Social Events Committee, the Eagle Team, and the very active Green-Health-Safety

Committee.

An inspiring Christmas message from the General Manager was followed by a Christmas Blessing by Ena Vrolijk, Guest Care Manager, just before the festive buffet line opened, featuring a delicious array of holiday favorites.

In addition to Goza Gaita, Robert Jeandor y Su Solo Banda Show provided dance music and filled the dance floor of the convention center until late into the night.

Midnight was greeted with a Champagne Toast and a fun New Year's Eve Balloon Drop. The evening concluded with a raffled door prize of Awg 1,000 grocery shopping spree to the store of the winner's choice!

Pictured here, La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club associates enjoying the holiday spirit. □



*"Distinguished Guest" Eleven Year Old Mathew Josephs*

# Josephs Family Honored At The Marriott



PALM BEACH – On Tuesday morning, the Josephs' family gathered in Marriott's lobby, where they were acknowledged with the "Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba" title by the Aruba Tourism Authority.

As a loyal Marriott guest and owner at Marriott's Aruba Vacation Club, Mr. Michael and Mrs. Toni Josephs have been visiting Aruba over more than twenty five consecutive years. Their first visit to Aruba was in 1985 and over the years

they have enjoyed family vacations on their favorite island.

For eleven years old Mathew, it was a special occasion as he received his own acknowledgement as "Distinguished guest of Aruba". Mathew has been coming to Aruba since he was three months old and will continue to come many more years after. The Josephs' family shares enthusiasm to visit Aruba each year based their experiences with the friendly people, bountiful



beaches and ideal vacation conditions and truly feel the Aruba Marriott is their "home away from home". After a heartwarming speech by Francis Jacobs of the Aruba Tourism Authority, the Josephs were presented with two commemorative plaques. Together with the Josephs family present at this special occasion were grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Josephs and Keirsin Tjon Pian Gi of the Aruba Marriott Resort &

Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. □



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## Letter to the Editor,

After 4 months of imprisonment I, Alex Mathew along with Liliana Mathew and Michael Levenstone still do not have a complete case file to properly defend ourselves. How can we be expected to properly defend ourselves without knowing what to defend or all that is against us?

The public Prosecutor Lars Stempher, has submitted a summons accusing us of mistreating girls and listing names of various girls that we've supposedly abused, however where are these declarations? We ask where are the statements from these women, stating that we've abused them.

Did the police and public prosecutor really obtain statements from these witnesses? Why do our documents contain list of names of girls that have been in contact with us stating that they have never given any declarations to the police and that they have never been abused by anyone? Are the police and public prosecutor then fraudulently misleading the courts by just placing names in a legal court document?

If so is this legal? If not, where are these declarations and why is this evidence being hidden or withheld from us?

Further after 4 months of detention in a facility that is below human right standards, with cells that are unprotected by the weather, the office of the public ministry is openly abusing it's power by detaining us in this facility past the maximum 120 days stated by law and then refusing to attend to this case by giving "proforma" for a period of up to 4 months.

Then, if the prosecutor making his own rules is not enough abuse against us, our basic right to defend ourselves and question our accusers is also being denied? So again we ask how can we defend ourselves if the public prosecutor and Judge of Instructions won't give us a fair chance to prove our innocence and won't let us defend ourselves against our accusers? The police have declarations from witnesses falsely accusing us and have proof that these declarations are false but since these declarations are convenient to their fraudulent case against us, they've still kept these declarations on file and refuse to pursue these people. Also there are countless declarations given by witnesses with extensive knowledge about this case but since their declarations are in our favor the police are hiding and withholding these from us as well.

Due to the unjust actions of the Public Ministry and the constant violation of our rights in this case we have asked and are currently awaiting approval from the Judge of Instruction J. F. Haeck and Judge Yarazaray to allow the international and local media to be present and to record the proceedings. As we have nothing to hide we want to show the world the truth about this case and clear our name once and for all.

Regards,  
Alex Mathew

# Can we restore compromise and civility to politics?

As chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, I have been crisscrossing the country speaking on the subject of civility and its centrality to American history.

The good news is that Americans from the left and right tell me they're hungry to reclaim a brand of politics that is spirited, but not mean-spirited. There is widespread recognition that the times demand sacrifice as long as it is mutual and fair.

What is being tested in the wake of unconscionably divisive campaigns is whether a newly divided government can muster sufficient goodwill to accommodate diverse perspectives and function effectively.

The 10 weirdest political ads of 2010

For years, politics has been considered the art of compromise, but for many of today's political activists, compromise is an untenable concept. Yet, if all men are created equal, surely it follows that everybody can learn from somebody else.

Seldom is there only one proper path determinable by one individual or one political party. Public decisionmaking does not lend itself to certitude.

That is why humility is a valued character trait and why civility is the linchpin of our democracy. Civility is not simply or principally about manners. It doesn't require that vigorous advocacy be avoided. Argumentation is a social good. Without argumentation, there is a tendency toward dogmatism. The door opens to tyranny.

What civility requires is a willingness to consider respectfully the views of others, with an understanding that we are all connected and rely on one another.

Historical perspectiveOur Founders were moral philosophers as well as political activists. They founded a country to protect unalienable, Creator-endowed rights. At the same time, they structured a government to constrain the foibles of human nature. Because concentrated authority was seen throughout history to have led to abuses, it was assumed that anyone entrusted with political authority was implacably vulnerable to the temptations of power. Accordingly, the Founders, led by James Madison, insisted on a separation-of-powers arrangement for the national government and duplicated the model at the state, county, and city levels.

Tensions between and within branches and levels of government came to characterize the American way. The implicit assumption was that a bifurcated and decentralized partnership in decisionmaking would check the hubris of overreaching officials.

The best and brightest have let us downThe case for a good row is particularly high this year. During the past decade, the best and brightest in government and finance let the public down. It is understandable that many citizens have reached the conclusion that there is a compelling case for change, which, depending on their perspective, could be liberal or conservative.

But all sides should recognize that while there is a vital role for laying out rival political ideas, there is no case for defining political opponents or rival parties as enemies.

Tea Party Top 10 biggest winners and losers  
For Americans to declare war on one another is a

debilitating, no-win proposition.

Country comes before party. What we need is a revival of old-fashioned notions like concern for the common good or what the 19th-century British utilitarians termed "the greatest good of the greatest number."

Legalized conflicts of interestWhat we don't need is a chilling acceptance that money should be allowed to rule elections. The divisiveness and hyperbolic campaign rhetoric that marked this fall's midterm elections were fueled in part by a Supreme Court ruling called Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.

By a single vote, the high court decided earlier this year that restrictions on campaign expenditures by corporations and unions violated constitutional protections of free speech.

With linguistic gyrations, this activist court changed the dynamics of future elections. In equating "money" with "speech" and "corporations" with "individuals," First Amendment protections were given for the expansion of legalized conflicts of interest in American politics.

The words in the Citizens United case seem civil. The effects are not. Our Founders did not envision a corporatist democracy. Abraham Lincoln did not speak of a government of, by, and for corporations. Genial arm-twistingFour-letter words may offend. But some of the politest conversations in public life can be the most uncivil. As a congressman for 30 years, I recall how frequently a member's walk to the House floor would be interrupted by a lobbyist.

The lobbyist would cheerfully note how his group had supported the congressman in the previous election and hoped to in the next but would then add that, by the way, there was a critical vote coming up and he hoped my colleague would understand the need to vote the "right" way. After asking politely about the spouse, the lobbyist would move on to another member.

5 famous pork projects: Beer museum and more Conversations of this nature were quite genial. But the persuasion had little to do with the best interests of the country.

A civil brand of politicsWhat uncivil speech and less-civil money have to do with the coming years in American politics can be summarized in one question: "How can elected officials indebted to primary voters who abhor compromise and/or interest groups with debts to collect find common ground to advance the common good?"

Midterm elections: International media reports on the 'pummeling'

The short answer is that it could be next to impossible. The longer answer is that it is possible if all Americans work to support a brand of politics that reins in moneyed conflicts and promotes a more civil approach to public decisionmaking.

Jim Leach, a former 15-term Republican member of Congress, is chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. Leach was recently honored with the Search for Common Ground's "Common Ground Award" for outstanding accomplishments in conflict resolution, negotiation, community, and peace-building. □



# Obama claims major progress as Afghan war rolls on

**BEN FELLER**

**AP White House Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) —

At the height of the war he escalated, President Barack Obama on Thursday declared major progress in turning back America's enemies in Afghanistan and Pakistan, promising U.S. troops will start coming home in July. Even so, he predicted four more years of combat, soberly warning the gains could slip away.

Speaking to a nation weary of war, Obama said his year-old strategy was succeeding in its two primary military objectives: degrading the leadership of the Pakistani-based al-Qaida terrorists who attacked the United States, and breaking the strength of the Taliban militants who once provided them haven in Afghanistan.

Yet his internal war review underscored huge challenges, too, from the terrorist sanctuaries in Pakistan to the desperate need for Afghanistan's government to offer basic services to its people and rid itself of corruption.

Put together, Obama's words and the report's findings underscore that his war strategy is here to stay.

On the issue that touches home most to millions of Americans, Obama stuck with his pledge that some U.S. forces would return home in July. But the scope of that withdrawal is expected to modest and its pace is unknown, as the transition to Afghan forces taking control of their nation is expected to last through 2014.

"I want to be clear: This continues to be a very difficult endeavor," Obama said from his White House podium, flanked by fellow leaders of the government. "But I can report that, thanks to the extraordinary service of our troops and civilians on the ground, we are on track to achieve our goals."

He then made a point to remind the nation what those goals are, a sign of how long this war has gone on — launched nearly a decade ago, and often overshadowed during that

time by the Iraq war and the U.S. recession.

"We will never waver from our goal of disrupting, dismantling and ultimately defeating al-Qaida," Obama said of the terror network that plotted the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks from Afghanistan. The Taliban, which allied itself with al-Qaida, has been a resurgent force in Afghanistan, prompting Obama to mount a military offensive.

There are roughly 100,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, a record level, as well as 40,000 from NATO allies. More than 2,100 U.S. forces have been killed in the war, including at least 480 this year, the highest to date.

Obama's upbeat assessment — "in pursuit of our core goal, we are seeing significant progress" — comes as separate U.S. national intelligence estimates of Afghanistan and Pakistan paint bleak pictures of security conditions inside Afghanistan and of Pakistan's willingness to rout militants on its side of the border.

Obama left the stage after his comments and turned it over to leaders of the U.S. military and diplomatic efforts, who found themselves fending off criticism that the presidential portrait was too rosy.

Defense secretary Robert Gates, who recently returned from Afghanistan, said, "The sense of progress among those closest to the fight is palpable." Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said there were no "rosy-scenario people in the leadership of this administration. ... This has been a very, very hard-nosed review."

At the heart of the U.S. strategy is an accelerated mission to train and expand Afghanistan's security forces so they can defend themselves. "This is really the path out for everybody," Gates said.

As for the pace of the U.S. withdrawal, Gates added: "The answer is, we don't know at this point."

While U.S., NATO and Afghan forces have pushed insurgents from their strongholds in southern Afghanistan and are aggressively going after

militants in the east, the Taliban have opened new fronts in the west and the north where security has been deteriorating for more than two years.

Ahead of Obama's comments, scores of anti-war protesters massed outside the White House under the first notable snowfall of Washington's winter.

They held signs and white banners with doves and some clung to the gate of the White House complex as police officers watched to make sure they didn't attempt to scale it. Unlike the U.S. role in the war in Iraq, which Obama opposed and is drawing to a close, the Afghan conflict has become a defining part of his presidency. He sees it as vital to American security and has nearly tripled U.S. forces there.

Yet only a minority of Americans now support the war in Afghanistan, and the degree to which Obama is seen as having offered credible, effective leadership on it will affect his re-election bid.

"I'm well aware of the popular concern, and I understand it," Clinton said of public attitudes about the war. "But I don't think leaders — and certainly this president — will not make decisions, that are matters of life and death and the future security of our nation, based on polling."

A defining issue in the months ahead will be the degree to which the United States can get Pakistan's cooperation in rooting out the terrorists within its borders. Obama, who has significantly escalated the scope of the war and always centered that effort on defeating al-Qaida, claimed his most progress to date.

"In short, al-Qaida is hunkered down," the president said.

"It will take time to ultimately defeat al-Qaida, and it remains a ruthless and resilient enemy bent on attacking our country. But make no mistake. We are going to remain relentless in disrupting and dismantling that terrorist organization."

Yet in Pakistan, he said that despite more coordination "progress has not come fast enough."

So we will continue to insist to



**Afghan fire fighters spray water onto a burning tanker carrying NATO fuel in the Behsud district of Nangarhar province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010. Officials said they believed a bomb had gone off inside or near the truck, sparking the fire. Two suspects have been arrested, said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, spokesman for the Nangarhar government. No one was injured, he said.**

*Associated Press*

Pakistani leaders that terrorist safe havens within their borders must be dealt with." And in Afghanistan, Obama said, the need for better political and economic progress is urgent.

In Brussels, Belgium, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the review showed that the U.S. strategy was sound and that the allies had the necessary resources to carry it out. □



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## WORLD BRIEFS

### Mesotitsch wins 20K biathlon World Cup race

POKLJUKA, Slovenia (AP) — Daniel Mesotitsch of Austria ended Norway's dominance of the men's events in this season's biathlon World Cup by winning Thursday's 20-kilometer individual race.

Norway still got a victory in the women's 15K race, with Olympic champion Tora Berger shooting cleanly to finish in 42 minutes, 47 seconds.

Mesotitsch had one penalty and finished in 52 minutes, 5.6 seconds for his third career victory.

Benjamin Weger of Switzerland was second, 58.4 seconds behind after also missing one target. Serguei Sednev of Ukraine was third, missing two targets and finishing 1:21.2 behind.

Norwegians had won the six previous men's races this season, with Emil Hegle Svendsen — who finished 16th on Thursday — topping the overall World Cup standings with 282 points. In the women's race, Berger was just 1.8 seconds ahead of overall World Cup leader Kaisa Makarainen, who had one penalty.

Marie Laure Brunet of France was third 35.3 seconds behind. Brunet leads the discipline

standings with 102 points and is fourth overall. Governing body IBU said that Paavo Puurenen of Finland was suspended from the men's race due to a hemoglobin value that exceeded the limits. Nicole Resch, the IBU secretary general, said in a statement that "this is not a doping case," because the hemoglobin levels can be naturally elevated. □

### CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals in Houston

NEW YORK (AP) — The semifinals of next year's Gold Cup will be played at Houston's Reliant Stadium on June 22.

The quarterfinals will be at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on June 18 and at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., the following day.

The CONCACAF final was announced last summer for June 25 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The winner qualifies for the 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil.

The Gold Cup opens on June 5 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and nine venues from California to Florida will be used in the first round.

Defending champion Mexico will be joined by the United States, Canada, Cuba, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Jamaica and five Central American teams to be determined next month. □



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange holds up a court document for the media after he was released on bail, outside the High Court, London, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been released on bail following a week of legal drama over his extradition.

*Associated Press*

## Assange free from prison, back to leaking govt. secrets

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD  
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been released on bail — confined to a supporter's 600-acre estate but free to get back to work spilling U.S. government secrets on his website as he fights Sweden's attempt to extradite him on allegations of rape and molestation.

The silver-haired Australian, who surrendered to British police Dec. 7, will have to observe a curfew, wear an electronic tag and report to police in person every day. But there are no restrictions on his Internet use, even as

U.S. authorities consider charges related to thousands of leaked diplomatic cables and other secret documents WikiLeaks has released. The site has released just 1,621 of the more than 250,000 State Department documents it claims to possess, many of them containing critical or embarrassing U.S. assessments of foreign nations and their leaders.

Dressed in a dark gray suit, Assange emerged from London's neo-Gothic High Court building late Thursday following a tense scramble to gather the money and signatures needed to free him. Speaking under a light

snowfall amid a barrage of flash bulbs, Assange — who's been out of the public eye for more than a month — told supporters he will continue bringing government secrets to light.

"It's great to smell the fresh air of London again," he said to cheers from outside the court. "I hope to continue my work." Assange ignored shouted questions from the assembled media.

Later, BBC footage captured the 39-year-old riding in a white armored four-by-four outside the Frontline Club, a venue for journalists owned by his friend and supporter Vaughan Smith. □



**"FAVI FUNDACION  
CU VISION"**



## Kosovo's PM: Report 'monstrous' and 'scandalous'

NEBI QENA

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) — Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaci has said a report suggesting he was the head of a criminal gang behind a grisly trade in the kidneys of slain civilian detainees was "monstrous" and "scandalous."

Thaci, who made his first public appearance since the publication of the report by Council of Europe investigator Dick Marty, said the allegations were aimed at damaging Kosovo's image internationally.

"The world knows who was the aggressor and who were the victims in Kosovo," Thaci said Thursday, referring to crimes committed by former Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic against ethnic Albanians during the 1998-1999 war. "These tendencies to change history, to equate the aggressor and the victim ... will fail again."

In an address broadcast live on Kosovo's public television, the former leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army said he felt "deeply offended" by the allegations.

"As prime minister, citizen of Kosovo and a father, I feel deeply offended," Thaci said. "Truth and justice are on our side."

Dick Marty, a Swiss senator, told reporters in Paris that "inhuman" treatment of people and illicit trafficking of human organs in the immediate aftermath of the country's war for independence from Serbia remains unpunished.

Marty's report, made public Tuesday, alleged that civilian detainees of the KLA rebels were shot to death to sell their kidneys on the black market and suggested that Thaci was once the "boss" of a criminal underworld behind the trafficking.

Thaci dismissed the allegations as "ill-intentioned propaganda," driven by a Serb-inspired agenda to undermine Kosovo's statehood. Kosovo declared independence in 2008, but Serbia has refused to recognize its sovereignty. □

# At least 20 killed in Ivory Coast clashes

MARCO CHOWN OVIED

Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — Forces loyal to the two men claiming Ivory Coast's presidency clashed in the streets of the commercial capital Thursday, killing at least 20 people and bolstering fears that the world's top cocoa producer is on the verge of another civil war.

Explosions and gunfire were heard throughout Abidjan — once known as the "Paris of Africa" for its cosmopolitan nightlife and chic boutiques. An errant rocket-propelled grenade struck an outer perimeter wall of the U.S. Embassy, but no injuries were reported and the damage was minor, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said in Washington.

Ivory Coast has been operating with two presidents and two governments since a disputed Nov. 28 runoff election. Alassane Ouattara was declared the winner by the country's electoral commission and was recognized by the U.N., U.S., France and the African Union as having beaten incumbent Laurent Gbagbo. The next day, however, the constitutional council overturned the results after invalidating a half-million votes from Ouattara strongholds. Crowley said a combined delegation from



Supporters of longtime opposition leader Alassane Ouattara whose Presidential election victory has been acknowledged by the U.N., U.S., France and the African Union take to the streets in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, Thursday Dec. 16, 2010.

the African Union and the Economic Community Of West African States would be in Abidjan soon "to continue to encourage President Gbagbo to step aside." The bloodshed in Abidjan is part of a risky push by Ouattara to take control of state institutions after the balloting that many hoped would reunite the West African nation following a 2002-03 war that split it in two. Amnesty International warned that the regional powerhouse "has never been so close to a

resumption of civil war."

"Every effort must be done to prevent further escalation of violence," the group said.

The U.S. and other nations have given Gbagbo an ultimatum to step down and leave Ivory Coast within days or face travel and financial sanctions, a senior Obama administration official said.

The official said the U.S., the U.N, France and the African Union had passed the message to Gbagbo's camp that "he has to go," and that there were

Associated Press

signs he might agree. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the ongoing discussions.

The official would not describe the signs, but noted that Gbagbo and his family have "multiple homes in multiple countries" that they would not be able to use if sanctions are imposed. The U.S. and the European Union have all threatened sanctions on Gbagbo, his family and his supporters if he does not accept the election result. □

## U.S. pilots face more jail in D.R.

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A Dominican prosecutor told a court Thursday that authorities want to keep holding two U.S. cargo pilots whose supporters say were inadvertently caught up in an apparent drug smuggling operation.

Prosecutor Carmen Diaz Amezcua asked during a hearing for more time to prepare an argument for holding the pilots pending further investigation of the case. The three-judge panel agreed to the delay, scheduling a new hearing for Monday.

Diaz said she would provide additional evidence but did not give any details, saying only that it was something that was not previously submitted to the court.

A lawyer for the pilots, Miguel Valerio, said he did not oppose the delay but complained about their continued detention. "We are playing with the liberty of two citizens who have been here more than two weeks," he told the court.



In this photo taken Thursday Dec. 2, 2010, U.S. cargo pilots Christopher Schmidt, right, of Maryville, Tennessee and Kevin Kuranz, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, watch as authorities of the Dominican Republic's National Drug Control Agency inspect their aircraft before departing from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Associated Press

Valerio said there was no evidence linking the men to the drugs found on their plane.

The pilots, Kevin Kuranz and Christopher Schmidt, attended the hearing. □



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### New surface could wreak havoc at Daytona 500

By MARK LONG

AP Sports Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. —

The Daytona 500 could have higher speeds, wilder races and closer finishes.

Drivers testing Daytona International Speedway for the first time since it was completely repaved agreed Thursday that NASCAR's premier event will feature tighter packs — cars running three wide at nearly 200 mph — and increase the possibility for breathtaking wrecks.

"It's going to be a lot tighter packs than I've ever seen," defending Daytona 500 winner Jamie McMurray said. "It's certainly going to be more Talladega-type, really close, restrictor-plate racing. ... You've got to hope that you're going to make it to the end because the odds (of big wrecks) are going to be really good I'd say."

The sport's most famous track recently completed its second repaving project, the first since 1979, and drivers turned laps on the 2 1/2-mile superspeedway Wednesday and Thursday as part of Goodyear's tire test.

The notorious bumps in turns two and four are gone, so is the pesky pothole that plagued the race last February, and pit road is wider for increased safety. The result is a smoother track that causes less tire wear, creates faster laps and more tight-knit racing.

"It's going to be more like Talladega," veteran driver Bobby Labonte said. "It's going to lend to more pushing, more shoving, more drafting like that. Obviously, that's going to lend to more things that could happen."

Continued on Page B7

### FIVE-GOAL FLYERS



*Flyers beat Canadiens for fourth straight win*

Philadelphia Flyers' Claude Giroux, center, celebrates with teammates Matt Carle, left, and Darroll Powe after scoring against Montreal Canadiens goaltender Carey Price (31) during an NHL hockey game in Montreal on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010.

Associated Press  
NHL Roundup Page B5

### Vegas judge orders Mayweather's arrest

CRISTINA SILVA,

Associated Press

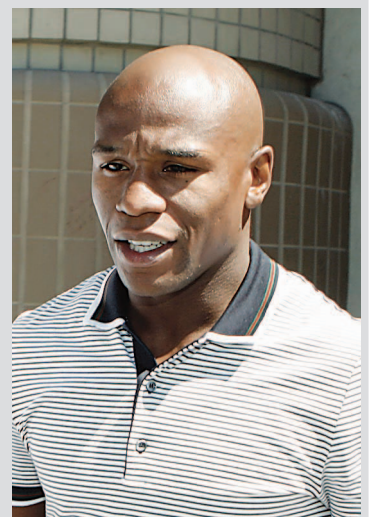
LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Las Vegas judge has issued an outstanding arrest warrant for boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. on a misdemeanor battery complaint alleging he poked a security guard in the face several times.

The warrant issued Dec. 8 requires Mayweather to turn himself in or face arrest at any time, said Las Vegas police Officer Bill Cassel. Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Tony Abbatangelo signed the arrest warrant for Mayweather after a Dec. 8 hearing, then immediately recalled it. It was reinstated after prosecutors complained Mayweather had received special treatment. Prosecutors also argued that Mayweather has a history of dangerous behavior and should be arrested.

Continued on Next Page

This Sept. 10, 2010, file photo shows boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., leaving the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas. Mayweather is due in court in Las Vegas Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010, on a misdemeanor battery charge, alleging he poked a security guard in the face during an argument outside Mayweather's home last month.

Associated Press





# Feller remembered as patriotic, larger than life

By LUKE MEREDITH

AP Sports Writer

VAN METER, Iowa — In his tiny hometown, Bob Feller was the farm boy who never forgot his roots.

The flags that defined him — those representing the United States, the Navy and the Cleveland Indians — flew at half-staff on a snowy Thursday morning at the Bob Feller Museum, a day after he died of acute leukemia at the age of 92.

“It’s such a great loss. Bob was a guy who was a little bit bigger than life,” said museum member Ed Brown, who stopped in to drop off flowers. “He had a lot of pride about being an Iowan and about the game of baseball.”

Feller’s path toward the Hall of Fame began to take shape at age 16 when he caught the attention of an Indians scout. In 1936, he made his first major league start two months before his 18th birthday, showing off a rocket right arm he claimed was strengthened by doing chores at home.

Soon, every sports fan had heard about “Rapid Robert.” They also knew of his “Heater from Van Meter” — hard to say whether they all realized the nickname came from this dot of a town west of Des Moines.

Feller won 266 games in 18 seasons with the Indians despite missing three full years and most of a fourth for service during World War II.

He was the first pitcher to win 20 games before he was 21 and was chosen for eight All-Star games.

Elected to Cooperstown in his first year of eligibility, he enjoyed more than half his life as a Hall of Famer.

Feller is still the Indians’ career leader in wins, strikeouts, innings, shutouts and complete games, and a statue of him in mid-delivery stands in his honor outside of Progressive Field in Cleveland.

Scott Havick manages the museum, which is filled with artifacts from Feller’s youth, time with the Navy and playing days. Among the items: the bat an ailing Babe Ruth used to prop himself up during his farewell at Yankee Stadium in 1948.

Havick said Feller was always proudest of his service during World War II. Feller enlisted two days after Pearl Harbor was bombed — longtime lore always had it as the next day, but the museum says it was Dec. 9, 1941.

“He was the most patriotic person I’ve ever known in my life,” Havick said. “People would ask him, ‘What’s the greatest win you’ve ever had?’ You would think it would be a no-hitter. He’d say, ‘World War II,’ without even blinking.”

Feller wasn’t afraid to speak his mind, either, and his propensity for being blunt was well-known in Van Meter



Flags fly at half-staff over the Bob Feller Museum, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010, in Van Meter, Iowa. Feller, a Hall of Fame pitcher who won 266 games in 18 seasons with the Cleveland Indians, died on Wednesday of acute leukemia at a hospice.

Associated Press

and beyond. But he was also remembered as a gracious man, especially with museum guests, and loved to share his endless stories about the game with anyone who’d listen.

“He had many sides to him. People think of Bob as being a gruff man that was outspoken, but Bob always said that he would speak his mind and you would never have to guess how he stood on a subject,” Havick said. “He wasn’t the guy you think he is. He was very loyal.”

Museum staffer Delores Jones said she got a “hug and a kiss” every time she saw Feller, who’d always who greet guests with a familiar cry of “Welcome to the Wigwam!” “He just seemed like family.

He’d come in and he was always so friendly, and we’d always enjoy him talking and telling the different stories,” Jones said. “We loved him dearly.”

In Cleveland, fans gathered at Progressive Field to pay tribute. The center field flag was lowered to half-staff and crews hung red, white and blue banners marking Feller’s baseball career and Navy service. Fans placed memorials, including a bouquet of flowers, a bag of sunflower seeds and an inscribed “A” for Feller’s wartime service on the USS Alabama, on the base of the statue bearing his likeness. Gary Schultz of Kent, Ohio, wearing an Indians jacket,

stopped by the statue to take a photo.

“He’s just the epitome of Cleveland and baseball,” Schultz said.

His neighbor, Rich Aber, was renewing his season tickets Thursday and reminisced about meeting Feller at spring training in Goodyear, Ariz.

“The only signed baseball I’ve got is by Bob,” Aber said. “I’m really glad I had a chance to meet him and shake his hand, which was very large and strong.”

Among the many star ballplayers who made the journey to Van Meter — a town of about 1,000 people whose claim to fame is Feller and little else — was fellow Hall of Famer Bobby Doerr. □

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## MAYWEATHER

Continued from Page B1

A court hearing to review the warrant was scheduled for Tuesday.

Mayweather, 33, faces a a six-month jail sentence and a \$1,000 fine if convicted.

Mayweather’s lawyer, Karen Winckler, could not immediately be reached for comment Thursday. She has denied wrongdoing on his behalf.

The battery allegation stems from a Nov. 15 confrontation over parking tickets between the undefeated champion and a security guard outside Mayweather’s home.

Police allege a “verbally abusive” Mayweather blocked the guard, Shayne Smith, from leaving a cul-de-sac, screamed he had no business “touching his personal property” and repeatedly jabbed his finger into Smith’s cheek.

Police said photographs taken during the investigation show redness and discoloration

below Smith’s left eye.

Mayweather has been the focus of several other police investigations in recent months, and made headlines in September with an online video laced with expletives and racial rants against Philippine boxing rival Manny Pacquiao.

He was convicted in 2002 of misdemeanor battery stemming from a fight with two women at a Las Vegas nightclub. He received a suspended one-year jail sentence and was ordered to undergo impulse-control counseling. He was fined in Grand Rapids, Mich., in February 2005 and ordered to perform community service after pleading no contest to misdemeanor assault and battery in a bar fight. Mayweather is free on \$33,000 bail on unrelated felony coercion, grand larceny and robbery charges from a September dispute with his children and their mother. He could face up to 34 years in prison if convicted in that case. □



# NFL sends letter to all teams about sideline rules

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK – The NFL sent a letter to the 32 teams Thursday reminding them of the rules and restrictions for the bench area and sidelines.

Ray Anderson, the league's executive vice president for football operations, emphasized the responsibilities placed on each team to appoint a "get-back coach" to ensure that players, coaches and other staff are in compliance with league rules.

The letter was sent in the wake of New York Jets strength and conditioning coach Sal Alosi being suspended indefinitely and fined \$25,000 by the team for sticking out his knee and tripping Miami's Nolan Carroll in Sunday's game. Alosi subsequently acknowledged he told five inactive players to stand next to each other for a punt return, during which he tripped Carroll.

"These long-standing rules are in place for safety purposes in order to protect players and officials on the field, members of the chain

crew, as well as coaches, players, and other club personnel in the bench areas," Anderson wrote.

The "get-back coach" must be aware of all sideline restrictions and will be responsible for ensuring that the team and staff are in compliance. Anderson added that "violations could subject your team and/or individuals to both in-game penalties and other disciplinary action. Flagrant violations after two warnings could result in an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty."

He said fines and suspensions could be imposed by the league, as well. During a news conference Monday, Alosi fought back tears as he called his actions — tripping Carroll — "inexcusable and irresponsible." He also said no one was instructed to stay up on the sideline to prevent Dolphins players from running out of bounds on kicks. Miami's Reshad Jones was penalized for doing that earlier in the game. However, tight end Jeff Cumberland, who was inactive Sunday, said it was

nothing new for the players to line up next to each other as they did against the Dolphins.

"Since the beginning of the year, we've been instructed to line up behind the (white) line," he said, adding that only Alosi told them to do so.

Coach Rex Ryan and special teams coordinator Mike Westhoff both have denied they ordered anyone to do what Alosi told the players. "It caught me off-guard," Ryan said.

Westhoff said he doesn't teach the technique and reviewed every return by the Jets this season with assistant special teams coordinator Ben Kotwica. Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum suspended Alosi indefinitely when the additional information became known. Tannenbaum said he met with Anderson on Wednesday morning and the league supported the Jets' decision to increase the suspension.

Tannenbaum did not rule out the possibility that Alosi will be fired. "All options are on the table," he said. □



This photo taken in 2009 shows Sal Alosi of the New York Jets.  
*Associated Press*

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## NBA Roundup

## Celtics take thriller over Knicks

NEW YORK (AP) — Amare Stoudemire's apparent winning 3-pointer on the buzzer was ruled out by a video replay, giving the Boston Celtics a 118-116 win over the New York Knicks on Wednesday — their 11th straight NBA win.

Paul Pierce made a tiebreaking jumper with 0.4 seconds left to put Boston ahead, but Stoudemire's long shot appeared to have given New York a dramatic win, and an eighth straight victory.

However a video replay showed the ball was clearly still in Stoudemire's hands as time expired.

Pierce scored 32 points for the Celtics, who trailed most of the fourth quarter before running their record to 20-4, best in the Eastern Conference.

Stoudemire had 39 points, extending his franchise-record streak to nine straight 30-point games.

Ray Allen scored 26 points and Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Celtics.

#### Mavericks 103, Trail Blazers 98

In Dallas, Caron Butler matched his season high with 23 points as Dallas got back on track with a victory over Portland.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 12 of his 21 in the fourth quarter for the Mavericks, whose 12-game winning streak was



**Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) reacts after an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010, in New York. The Celtics won the game 118-116.**

*Associated Press*

snapped by Milwaukee on Monday.

Dallas-area native LaMarcus Aldridge scored 20 of his season-high 35 points in the fourth quarter for the Blazers, who lost their third in a row.

Portland rallied from a 17-point third-quarter deficit, tying it at 93-93 with 2:07 left. But Nowitzki hit a 6-footer with 1:49 remaining to give Dallas the lead for good.

Spurs 92, Bucks 90

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili hit a fallaway jumper as time expired, lifting San Antonio over Milwaukee.

Ginobili scored the last of his 26 points on a 17-footer over the outstretched arm of Luc Mbah a Moute, who missed a shot that would have given the

Bucks the lead seconds earlier. The Spurs improved their NBA-best record to 21-3 and stayed unbeaten against Eastern Conference teams. They also wrapped up a 6-0 homestand.

Ginobili scored the final six points for the Spurs. Tim Duncan finished with 13 points and a season-high seven blocks.

Chris Douglas-Roberts had 21 points for the Bucks.

#### Lakers 109, Pacers 94

In Indianapolis, Kobe Bryant scored 25 of his 31 points in the second half to help Los Angeles beat Indiana.

Pau Gasol scored 28 points for the Lakers, who never trailed.

The Lakers shot 51 percent against the Pacers, who

entered with the NBA's No. 2 field-goal percentage defense. Los Angeles outrebounded Indiana 51-29 to win for the sixth time in seven games.

Darren Collison scored 17 points for the Pacers, who have lost three straight.

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 32 points as Oklahoma City beat Houston for its fourth straight win.

Durant was on the bench with four fouls late in the third quarter when the Thunder scored eight straight points to take control of the game. James Harden tacked on a 3-pointer to open the fourth and push Oklahoma City's lead to 90-76, and the Rockets were never closer than a dozen points after that.

Thabo Sefolosha added a season-high 15 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder. Kevin Martin scored 22 points for Houston.

In Miami, the hosts made it 10 straight wins by holding off Cleveland.

**In other NBA games it was L.A. Lakers 109, Indiana 94; Boston 118, New York 116; Philadelphia 105, L.A. Clippers 91; Chicago 110, Toronto 93; Miami 101, Cleveland 95; Memphis 113, Charlotte 80; New Orleans 94, Sacramento 91; Oklahoma City 117, Houston 105; San Antonio 92, Milwaukee 90; Phoenix 128, Minnesota 122; and Dallas 103, Portland 98.**

## Yao has stress fracture in ankle

HOUSTON (AP) — Yao Ming has a stress fracture in his left ankle and the Houston Rockets said there is no timetable for the return of the towering Chinese center whose NBA career may be in serious jeopardy after a series of injuries.

Yao has been out since Nov. 10 with what had been called a bone bruise in the same ankle. An MRI performed Thursday revealed the stress fracture.

Yao, a seven-time All-Star, sat out last season after surgery to repair his broken left foot. The Rockets said his current injury is related to the old one, and was discovered during his current rehabilitation.

The 2.25-meter (7-foot-6) Yao was the top overall draft pick in 2002 and first began to have injury problems in the 2005-06 season.

His left foot has been the main problem. He first broke a bone in the foot with four games left in the 2005-06 season.

He broke his right leg in the 2006-07 season, forcing him to sit out 32 games, before a stress fracture in his left foot in February 2008 forced him to miss the playoffs. He had pins inserted and rushed his rehabilitation to play for China in the Beijing Olympics.

Yao played 77 regular-season games in 2008-09 and had no problems with his foot until the second round of the playoffs, when he injured it again. That injury proved to be the most serious, when the hairline fracture didn't heal and he was forced to undergo complex surgery.

## Stimulant again involved in doping case

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)

— A stimulant responsible for more than a dozen recent doping cases across several sports has resulted in a two-year ban to New South Wales Rugby League player Chris Salem, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority said Friday.

Salem, who plays for the Bankstown Bulls, tested positive for methylhexaneamine in an in-competition test on Aug. 28. His ban will end Sept. 10, 2012.

The World Anti-Doping Agency recently loosened the classification of methylhexaneamine for 2011 to the "specified stimulant" list, which covers drugs that are more susceptible to inadvertent use and can carry reduced penalties. Penalties can range from a warning to a two-year ban.

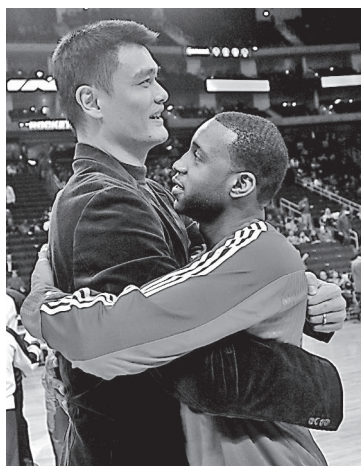
ASADA issued a warning to athletes in October following a number of positive test results for the prohibited stimulant.

"This serves as a timely reminder to athletes to be wary of the dangers of methylhexaneamine which is increasingly being found in supplements," ASADA chief executive Aurora Andruska said.

"Athletes are responsible for any substance found in their body, and there have been cases where both Australian and international athletes have been sanctioned after they have used supplements that they thought were OK, but which were actually contaminated with prohibited substances."

Generally, stimulants can increase alertness and reduce fatigue in athletes.

At the Asian Games in November, two Uzbekistan athletes — one a wrestler, the other a judo competitor — tested positive to methylhexaneamine. The judoka lost his silver medal.



**Former teammates Houston Rockets' Yao Ming, left, of China, and Detroit Pistons' Tracy McGrady, right, hug before an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010, in Houston.**

*Associated Press*



## NHL Roundup

# Five-goal Flyers overcome Canadiens 5-3

MONTREAL (AP) — The NHL-leading Philadelphia Flyers extended their winning streak to four by beating rival division leader Montreal Canadiens 5-3 on Wednesday. James van Riemsdyk scored his second goal of the game on a power play 14:27 into the third period to give Philadelphia a 4-3 lead.

Claude Giroux made it a two-goal lead with his 16th goal of the season at 15:28. Jeff Carter had a goal and two assists, and Nikolay Zherdev had a goal and an assist for the Flyers.

P.K. Subban had a goal and an assist for Montreal, which has lost three in a row for the first time this season. Tomas Plekanec and Brian Gionta scored 2:54 apart midway through the third for the Canadiens, who trailed 2-0 and 3-1.

### Rangers 4, Penguins 1

In Pittsburgh, Erik Christensen and Alex Frolov scored 15 seconds apart to spark a four-goal third period as New York rallied to beat Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby extended his point streak to a career-high 20 games when he assisted on Evgeni Malkin's first-period goal.

Christensen tied it with 9:50 to play, while New York was on the power play, and Frolov gave the Rangers a 2-1 lead by burying his own rebound at 10:25.

Artem Anisimov and Brian Boyle scored 34 seconds apart less than five minutes later to seal the Rangers' first win in regulation in Pittsburgh in nearly five years.

### Ducks 2, Capitals 1, OT

In Washington, Ryan Getzlaf scored in overtime to give Anaheim victory and send Washington to its seventh straight loss.

The Capitals are on their worst skid since Bruce Boudreau became coach just over three years ago.

The Capitals finished with a 32-24 edge in shots, but the game was even after Washington controlled the first period. Washington had 17 shots in the first, a period

in which the Capitals took a 1-0 lead on Brooks Laich's goal.

But the Ducks slowed the Capitals in the second and tied it on Joffrey Lupul's power-play goal.

### Red Wings 5, Blues 2

In Detroit, defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom had three goals and an assist for his first career hat trick, helping Detroit beat St. Louis.

The 40-year-old Swede, a six-time Norris Trophy winner as the NHL's best defenseman, has helped Detroit win four Stanley Cup titles and also won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoffs MVP.

Danny Cleary added a goal and two assists while Niklas Kronwall also scored for the Red Wings.

Carlo Colaiacovo and Brad Winchester scored for St. Louis.

### Lightning 2, Thrashers 1, SO

In Tampa, Victor Hedman scored in the fourth round of a shootout to help Tampa Bay beat Atlanta.

Hedman has scored just two goals in 30 games this season. The defenseman's goal was the lone one in the shootout. Sean Bergenheim scored for the Lightning, who have beaten the Thrashers eight straight times.

Rich Peverley had the only



Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky makes a save against the Montreal Canadiens during first period NHL hockey action in Montreal, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010.

Associated Press

goal for the Thrashers.

### Predators 3, Sharks 2

In Nashville, Sergei Kostitsyn and Colin Wilson scored goals 44 seconds apart in the third period as Nashville earned its fourth straight victory by defeating San Jose.

Jordin Tootoo also scored for the Predators, who have at least one point in nine consecutive games.

Kostitsyn tied it 2-2 with 3:16 left when he put a shot between Antti Niemi's pads. Wilson scored the game winner with

2:32 remaining.

Niclas Wallin and Dany Heatley scored for the Sharks, who led 1-0 and 2-1.

### Avalanche 4, Blackhawks 3

In Chicago, Tomas Fleischmann scored three times, including back-to-back power-play goals in the third period, to lead Colorado over Chicago.

Colorado stretched its winning streak to four and gave the Blackhawks their ninth regulation loss at home. Chicago had only eight last

season before winning the Stanley Cup.

**In other NHL games it was Tampa Bay 2, Atlanta 1, SO; Buffalo 3, Boston 2; New Jersey 3, Phoenix 0; N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 1; Anaheim 2, Washington 1, OT;**

**Detroit 5, St. Louis 2; Philadelphia 5, Montreal 3; Carolina 4, Florida 3; Nashville 3, San Jose 2; Colorado 4, Chicago 3; and Vancouver 3, Columbus 2, OT.**

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daily: 4:45  
matinee: 12:15 - 2:30  
late show: 11:15

SP

PG

**JACKASS**  
daily: 7:00 - 9:15  
matinee: 11:30  
late show: 11:30

R

**LOVE RANCH**  
daily: 4:00  
matinee: 1:30  
late show: 11:15

R

**THE TOURIST**  
daily: 6:00 - 8:30  
matinee: 1:00 - 3:30  
late show: 11:00

PG-13

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

**BLACK SWAN**  
daily: 6:00 - 8:30 - 11:00  
matinee: 1:00 - 3:30  
late show: 11:00

NEW

R

**MEGA MINDY 2**  
daily: 4:15  
matinee: 12:15 - 2:15  
late show: 11:15

NEW

PG

**NARNIA "THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER"**  
daily: 5:30 - 8:00  
matinee: 12:30 - 3:00  
late show: 11:00

SP

PG

**THE TOURIST**  
daily: 6:15 - 8:45  
matinee: 12:45 - 3:30  
late show: 11:15

PG-13

**FASTER**  
daily: 4:00 - 6:30 - 9:00  
matinee: 1:30  
late show: 11:30

R

**LOVE AND OTHER DRUGS**  
daily: 6:15 - 8:45  
matinee: 12:45 - 3:30  
late show: 11:15

R

**BURLESQUE**  
daily: 6:15 - 8:45  
matinee: 11:15  
late show: 11:15

SP

PG-13

**BUY YOUR TICKET ONLINE**  
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Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat



## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Mesotitsch wins 20K biathlon World Cup race

POKLJUKA, Slovenia (AP) — Daniel Mesotitsch of Austria ended Norway's dominance of the men's events in this season's biathlon World Cup by winning Thursday's 20-kilometer individual race.

Norway still got a victory in the women's 15K race, with Olympic champion Tora Berger shooting cleanly to finish in 42 minutes, 47 seconds.

Mesotitsch had one penalty and finished in 52 minutes, 5.6 seconds for his third career victory.

Benjamin Weger of Switzerland was second, 58.4 seconds behind after also missing one target. Serguei Sednev of Ukraine was third, missing two targets and finishing 1:21.2 behind.

Norwegians had won the six previous men's races this season, with Emil Hegle Svendsen — who finished 16th on Thursday — topping the overall World Cup standings with 282 points.

In the women's race, Berger was just 1.8 seconds ahead of overall World Cup leader Kaisa Makarainen, who had one penalty.

Marie Laure Brunet of France was third 35.3 seconds behind. Brunet leads the discipline

standings with 102 points and is fourth overall.

Governing body IBU said that Paavo Puurenen of Finland was suspended from the men's race due to a hemoglobin value that exceeded the limits. Nicole Resch, the IBU secretary general, said in a statement that "this is not a doping case," because the hemoglobin levels can be naturally elevated. □

### CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals in Houston

NEW YORK (AP) — The semifinals of next year's Gold Cup will be played at Houston's Reliant Stadium on June 22.

The quarterfinals will be at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on June 18 and at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., the following day.

The CONCACAF final was announced last summer for June 25 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. The winner qualifies for the 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil.

The Gold Cup opens on June 5 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and nine venues from California to Florida will be used in the first round.

Defending champion Mexico will be joined by the United States, Canada, Cuba, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Jamaica and five Central American teams to be determined next month. □

### Kebede, Shobukhova to defend London titles

LONDON (AP)—Tsegaye Kebede and Liliya Shobukhova will defend their London Marathon titles in April. Kedebe became the second Ethiopian to win the men's title when he crossed in 2 hours, 5 minutes, 19 seconds, just nine seconds behind Olympic champion Sammy Wanjiru's 2009 course record. Wanjiru will be present for the April 17 race alongside Kenyan teammates Patrick Makau and Abel Kirui after missing this year's race with a knee injury. Two-time winner Irina Mikitenko pulled out at halfway this year but will return to challenge Shobukhova, who also won the Chicago Marathon in October. Both men's and women's lineups featuring the top five from the 2010 race and Olympic and world champions. □

# Bobby Jenks joins Red Sox, Ordonez stays with Tigers



In this Aug. 13, 2008 file photo, Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood throws against the Atlanta Braves in the eighth inning of a baseball game in Atlanta. Wood is returning to the Chicago Cubs, agreeing to a one-year, \$1.5 million contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010, on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

By **BEN WALKER**  
AP Baseball Writer

Bobby Jenks, Kerry Wood and Josh Willingham changed uniforms while Magglio Ordonez stayed in Detroit as several teams tried to wrap up business Thursday before taking a holiday break.

A December flurry of activity saw Minnesota reach a deal with Japanese batting champion Tsuyoshi Nishioka and the Los Angeles Dodgers get reliever Matt Guerrier.

Also in the works: Looking for a lefty in the bullpen, the New York Yankees are trying to close a deal for free agent Pedro Feliciano.

The Boston Red Sox stayed busy, reaching agreement with Jenks on a \$12 million, two-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there

was no official announcement. The right-handed Jenks posted 27 saves for the White Sox last season, but lost the closer's role at the end of the year when he struggled with injuries.

The Red Sox agreed to a one-year contract with right-handed reliever Matt Albers, who made 62 appearances for Baltimore, and sent utilityman Eric Patterson to San Diego to complete the trade for first baseman Adrian Gonzalez.

Wood is going back to the Cubs on a one-year deal with a base guarantee of \$1.5 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told the AP.

The 33-year-old Wood was the NL Rookie of the Year with the Cubs in 1998 and nearly helped pitch them into the 2003 World Series. Wood, whose career has been slowed by injuries, split last

season with Cleveland and the Yankees.

He's expected to be a late-inning reliever in Chicago.

The Oakland Athletics acquired Willingham from the Washington Nationals for a pair of prospects, right-handed reliever Henry Rodriguez and outfielder Corey Brown.

The A's, who had trouble scoring this year, have added Willingham and David DeJesus to their outfield in the offseason. Willingham hit .268 with 16 homers and 56 RBIs for the Nationals.

"I think this team is ready to win," Willingham said. "And the organization, with the moves it has already made this offseason, proves it is ready to win also."

Ordonez and the Tigers agreed on a \$10 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told the AP.

Detroit declined Ordonez's \$15 million option in October, but wanted the six-time All-Star outfielder back if he recovered from a season-ending ankle injury in July. Ordonez turns 37 next month. He hit .303 with 12 homers and 59 RBIs in 84 games last season.

Nishioka and the Twins reached a preliminary agreement on a three-year contract worth about \$10 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told the AP. He hit .346 last season in Japan.

Nishioka can play shortstop or second base, and the Twins have a need for middle infielders after J.J. Hardy was traded and Orlando Hudson became a free agent.

Minnesota also traded backup catcher Jose Morales to Colorado for minor league left-hander Paul Bargas.

In other moves, the Yankees completed a contract with former All-Star catcher Russell Martin, Cleveland agreed to terms with infielder Adam Everett on a minor league deal and Toronto brought back designated hitter-first baseman Edwin Encarnacion. □



## NASCAR

*Continued from Page B1*

Nobody knows that. If you sat here on a Monday and ran a 500-mile race with 43 cars and you did it again Wednesday and again Friday, you'd have three different races probably.

"It's not a recipe. It just kind of folds out the way it folds out. You don't really know, but it definitely lends to that."

Eighteen drivers from six teams, including Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr., Mark Martin, Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch and Juan Pablo Montoya, took part in the test. Some teams brought cars and engines from last season. Others tested their latest and greatest technology, including ethanol-blended fuel.

All the teams used a slightly smaller restrictor plate than the one bolted on engines at Daytona last season. The top speed was 197.5 mph, and NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said officials will evaluate testing results before deciding whether to reduce the plate even further.

"We may need to come down a little bit off of that, which would be like a 64th of an inch or something," Pemberton said. "We'll have to go back and talk to the teams and we'll look at the speeds from the last two days of testing."

Teams will return to Daytona for a three-day test in late January. Not much is expected to change before then. Goodyear seemingly nailed the tire in the Daytona test. Although analysts had limited access to the new pavement, they used Talladega's recently repaved surface as a starting point and tweaked a few things from there. They ended up with the same left-side tire used at Talladega and a right-side tire more like ones used at Las Vegas and Charlotte.

The combination resulted in the least tire wear drivers could remember. "Tires, from what we've seen so far, are not going to be an issue," McMurray said. "You'll see two tires, four tires and you might see fuel only."

Since tires haven't shown the kind of wear typically seen at Daytona, speeds have remained fast and handling has been relatively tame. McMurray said he turned the steering wheel half as much as he used to. That kind of smooth driving should allow drivers to stay tightly packed for 500 miles.

That kind of racing usually makes for big wrecks.

"Three wide is not going to be an issue," McMurray said. "It's just running really close together. It's going to be not running over the guy. It sounds really easy, but it's really hard to do."

The old surface proved challenging for drivers. Between the treacherous bumps to the slippery seams, cars often were a handful to keep straight.

They won't be nearly as difficult now.

"This is more of chess game, 'When do I get aggressive, when do I not get aggressive?'" Burton said. "A lot of times on the old surface, your car dictated when you could and when you couldn't (take a chance). What's going to dictate this time is how many laps are left. The workload's actually going to be less. I think your brain will be tired, but I don't think anything else will be tired."

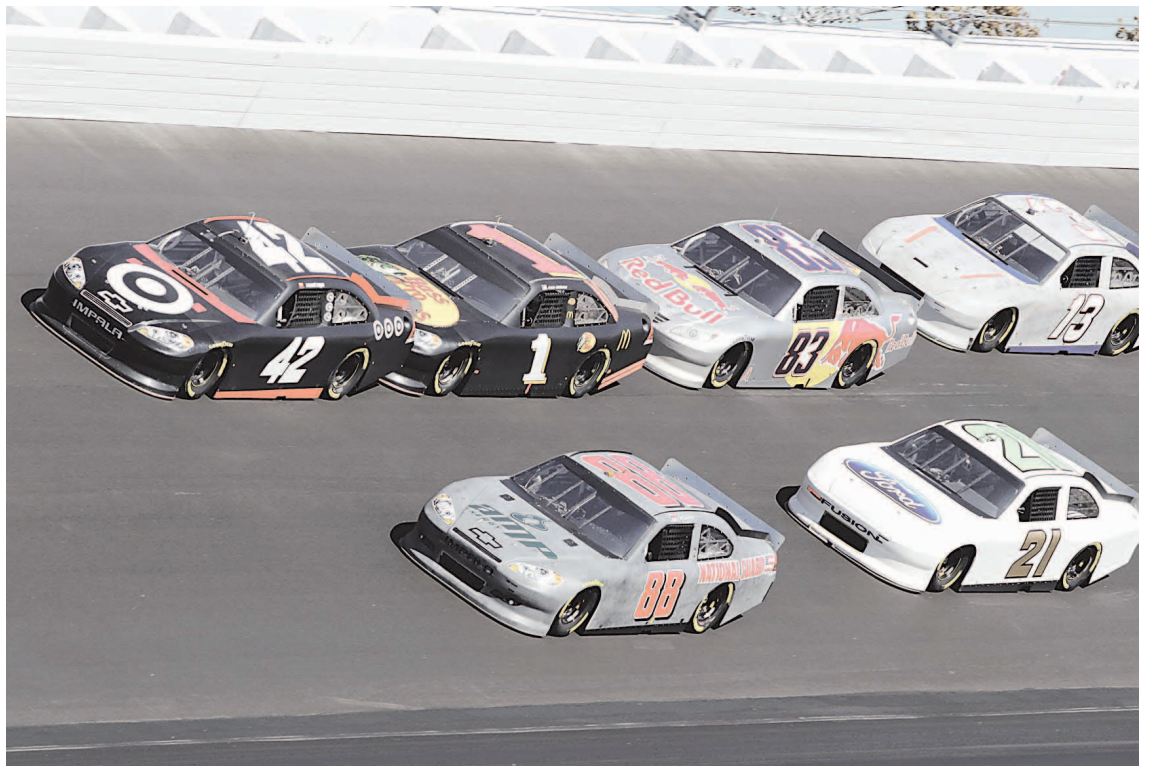
Aside from the smooth surface, pit road was the other notable difference. The repaving project included widening pit road considerably, creating more room for everyone.

"This pit road was the most treacherous of all the pit roads that we raced on," Kurt Busch said. "It looks like green acres out there. It's really a safer place on pit road. The environment for the crew guys will be much better and you won't necessarily have to worry as much about getting the fender dings. I'm excited about it."

Little else changed, drawing praise from drivers.

"They just put pavement on it, and I'm glad that's what they did," Burton said. "Daytona has its own history, has its own heritage, it's entrenched in what our sport's all about, so keeping Daytona Daytona was 100 percent the right thing to do."

"But it has a whole lot more grip. It's going to keep that grip for a long time. ... You're going to see the kind of racing you see in February for several years." □



NASCAR Sprint Cup drivers Juan Pablo Montoya (42), of Colombia, Reed Sorenson (83), Casey Mears (13), Todd Bodine (64), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (88), Trevor Bayne (21) and Brad Keselowski (2), race around the newly-paved track surface at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010. The testing was the first time race cars turned laps on the new asphalt.

Associated Press

# 2010 Toys for Tots

Christmas is the season of giving, and you can help Aruba Today and Bon Dia Aruba make it more special for families in need on Aruba.

Now you have 2 more days to bring your gift for the Toys for Tots program!!

As has been the custom of ARUBA TODAY since 2003, we are collecting toys, books, clothing for boys and girls, non-perishable food products, etc, for the children of Casa Cuna, Imeldahof, and this year also the Foodbank of Aruba.

This is an opportunity for you to show solidarity with the most needy in our community. You can help make a child or family have a beautiful and special Christmas.

You be a part of this program too, and bring a gift to our office located at Weststraat #22 in Oranjestad. If you prefer to make a financial contribution to this cause, this is also possible.

Let's help a child or family have a Merry and Joyful Christmas.

Ahead of time, Toys for Tots thanks each and everyone for helping us realize this project.

NEW DEADLINE to bring gifts or other materials:  
Monday, 20 December, 2010.

Thank You








# Lochte sets 1st world record since bodysuit ban



United States' gold medalist Ryan Lochte celebrates setting a new World Record in the Men's 400m Individual Medley final at the FINA Short Course Swimming World Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010.

ANDREW DAMPF  
AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Ryan Lochte was already being labeled the top swimmer of 2010, ahead of even Michael Phelps. Now he's got another title to boast about.

Lochte snapped swimming's world record drought Thursday, setting the first individual mark since high-tech bodysuits were outlawed at the start of the year.

The American won the 400-meter individual medley

at the short-course world championships in 3 minutes, 55.50 seconds, smashing the previous record set by Laszlo Cseh of Hungary by nearly two seconds.

"World records are records and they're meant to be broken and I guess it's only a matter of time," Lochte said. "I guess I'm lucky that mine happened sooner than" anyone else.

Never one to celebrate wildly, and exhausted after one of the sport's most grueling races, Lochte simply smiled when he

looked up at the scoreboard and saw the result, then pumped his fist.

"I'm not one of those people that will celebrate or let it get to me," the laid-back Floridian said. "Whatever happened during that race, as soon as I touched the wall it's over and I've got to get ready for my next race."

China's women set a world record in the 800 freestyle relay Wednesday, and Russia set the men's record of 6:49.04 in the 800 free relay later Thursday. But no individual world marks

Associated Press

— none at all in the long-course pool — had been set before Lochte's swim.

"That was sick! I can't even do that in freestyle," said Brazilian sprinting standout Cesar Cielo. "I don't know what to say, that guy is amazing. We're just blessed to swim in an era where we have Michael Phelps, Lochte and so many good guys."

By contrast, in 2008 and 2009, nearly every record in the sport was broken multiple times.

"The first one is always the hardest, so hopefully a lot of records are going to fall by the end of this meet," Cielo said. For Lochte, however, this was simply another race. He's even planning to give away his medal, as is his custom outside Olympics.

"I feel like the fans appreciate it more. They get so happy when they get it. I mean, I love getting medals. It means everything. But if I can help someone else out I'll be more than happy to do it," he said. "Usually there's little kids waiting outside, and if they've been waiting that long they deserve it."

Two other Americans also came away with golds Thursday. Natalie Coughlin held off two Chinese challengers to win the 100 backstroke in a meet record 56.08 seconds and Rebecca Soni beat Leiston Pickett of Australia by 0.01 seconds in the 50 breaststroke.

Also, Stanislav Donets of Russia won the men's 100 back in a championship record 49.07. Camille Lacourt of France finished 0.73 behind and held on to his silver medal after a protest by his team cleared him of a disqualification for swimming underwater too long.

Olympic champion Cielo dominated the 50 free semifinals, clocking a meet record 20.61 — 0.49 ahead of Marco Orsi of Italy and 0.56 in front of Frederick Bousquet of France.

Cielo is feeling motivated following Brazil's bronze in the 400 free relay Wednesday.

"I think the relay made a very good step into the meet and this is just another warning for the rivals," he said. "The 50 free is always hard to judge but I think I'm in good shape to drop my time tomorrow and hopefully that will mean a gold medal."

Olympic 100-meter champion Alain Bernard of France qualified in a tie for sixth, 0.65 back, while American sprinter Nathan Adrian finished 11th and failed to make the final.

In the 400 IM, Olympic 1,500-meter champion Oussama Mellouli of Tunisia finished a distant 1.90 seconds behind Lochte, and Tyler Clary of the United States was third, 2.06 back.

Lochte trailed Clary at the race's midpoint, but was able to stay underwater longer than his teammate and took the lead on the butterfly leg. He was still 0.03 behind the world record mark at 300 meters and turned on the speed in freestyle to beat all his competitors by more than a bodylength and usher in a new era in swimming.

"I didn't feel so good in the first half of the race, and then all of a sudden I kind of hit an extra gear and I felt back to my normal self and I just kind of went from there," Lochte said.

Lochte opened the meet with a victory in the 200 freestyle Wednesday, when he also took part in the 400 free relay in which the U.S. finished fourth. A couple hours after his world record, he swam a strong second leg in the 800 relay, helping the Americans take silver, just 0.54 seconds behind Russia's record swim.

Lochte will be the favorite to win three more golds in his remaining individual events, and he'll also likely swim another relay before the meet ends Sunday. □

An advertisement featuring a close-up of a nurse's hands holding a patient's hand. The patient is a Black woman wearing a white nurse's cap. A red HIV/AIDS awareness ribbon is pinned to the bottom right. Text on the left reads: "As a nurse, I know it's not right to discriminate against any person under my care, including persons with HIV or AIDS. It's my responsibility to protect your privacy." Below this, in large bold letters: "Confidentiality... Your RIGHT, Our DUTY". At the bottom, there are logos for Cushi, the Department of Health, and the American Nurses Association, along with a small text line: "DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT PROTECT AGAINST HIV... IT HURTS".



# WikiLeaks founder released from British custody

LONDON – The once-elusive Julian Assange was freed on bail Thursday, releasing the WikiLeaks founder to continue his work as Sweden pushes its case for extradition and the United States considers its own criminal charges over his website's release of secret information.

The silver-haired Australian emerged from London's neo-Gothic High Court building after a tense scramble to gather the money and signatures needed to free him. Speaking under a light snowfall amid a barrage of flash bulbs, Assange who's been out of the public eye for more than a month told supporters he would pursue his efforts to bring government secrets to light.

"It's great to smell the fresh air of London again," he said to cheers from outside the court. "I hope to continue my work." Assange is now headed to Ellingham Hall, a 10-bedroom mansion about 120 miles (195 kilometers) northeast of central London that belongs to Vaughan Smith, a WikiLeaks

supporter and founder of London's Frontline Club for journalists.

Assange will have to observe a curfew, wear an electronic tag and report to police every day restrictions imposed by High Court Justice Duncan Ouseley.

WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said Assange could use the 600-acre estate to continue coordinating the publication of leaked U.S. diplomatic cables, whose publication has angered U.S. government officials, embarrassed allies and nettled rivals. The U.S. State Department says that international partners are have already curtailed their dealings with Washington as a result of the cable leaks, but there's still much more to be disclosed.

So far WikiLeaks has published some 1,621 U.S. diplomatic cables less than 1 percent of the 250,000 cables it claims to have in reserve. A batch of 74 new cables appeared on the organization's website about two hours

before Assange was released. Hrafnsson described the restrictions on Assange's movements as amounting to "virtual house arrest," but said Assange would still be able to work.

"There is a good internet connection there," he noted. Although U.S. officials have been looking at possible charges to levy against the 39-year-old Australian for his role in the mass leaks, Assange's current legal troubles stem from his personal life.

Swedish officials are seeking him for questioning on allegations stemming from separate encounters with a pair of women in Sweden over the summer, accusations that have clouded his reputation and prompted complaints from supporters that Assange is being persecuted because of his activities.

Swedish prosecutors have rejected those allegations. The women have accused Assange of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion. Assange's lawyers say the



allegations stem from a dispute over "consensual but unprotected sex" and argue that he has offered to make himself available for questioning via video link or in person in Britain.

Lawyer Gemma Lindfield, acting for Sweden, said the allegations had enhanced Assange's reputation among his supporters, who "view it as part of the wider conspiracy." She said given Assange's nomadic lifestyle and loose ties to some of those promising bond, there was "a

real risk" he would flee.

But the judge said when Assange arrived in Britain, he had asked his lawyers to contact police so they would know where he was.

"That is not the conduct of a person who is seeking to evade justice," Ouseley said. Swedish Prosecutor Marianne Ny said the bail decision would not change the ongoing investigation in Sweden, and the extradition case would be handled by British authorities. Assange's next extradition hearing is set for Jan. 11. □

## Dual-core LG Optimus 2X: the Android smartphone to beat (for now)

LG's well-leaked 4-inch Android smartphone has finally broken cover, boasting such mouth-watering features as full-on 1080p playback and recording, dual cameras and best of all a dual-core processor, the first of its kind for a smartphone. When will it arrive in the U.S.? Good question.

There are a couple of sour notes about the Optimus 2X that we should hit first, beginning with the fact that for now, it doesn't have a U.S. release date. LG says the 2X will go on sale in Korea next month, with Europe and Asia "to follow." As for North America, well ... still up in the air.

Also, the Optimus 2X won't be shipping with "Gingerbread," the latest and greatest version of Android not a huge surprise, really, given that the just-released Nexus S is the only Gingerbread Android phone for now. Instead, the 2X will

arrive with the next best thing, Android 2.2 "Froyo," and LG promises an update to Android 2.3 "in due course."

Moving back to the good stuff, though: We find that the Optimus 2X will come with a 4-inch WVGA display, the same size as on Samsung's "Galaxy S" Android phones, along with two cameras: a 1.3-megapixel lens in front for video chat, and an 8MP snapper in back capable of 1080p-quality video capture. Speaking of 1080p, LG claims the Optimus 2X will be able to handle 1080p video playback along with HDMI "mirroring," meaning users can transmit 1080p video to an external monitor via the phone's HDMI output while following along on the handset's display. Cool. Other features on the upcoming Optimus include a built-in accelerometer and gyroscope (naturally), as well as DLNA (short for Digital Living Network Alliance)

media sharing with compatible PCs, TVs and other devices on your home network.

Perhaps the Optimus 2X's key feature is the processor that's humming under the hood: a dual-core, 1GHz Nvidia Tegra 2 "system-on-a-chip," the first of its kind to arrive in a smartphone — or, at least, the first of its kind to be announced in a smartphone.

The new dual-core processor promises zippier performance than we've seen on even the fastest single-core 1GHz handsets, especially when it comes to multitasking and handling 1080p video.

But what about battery life? LG has yet to speculate on how long the Optimus 2X's 1,500 mAh battery will keep its dual-core engine running. Don't expect LG to stand alone in the land of dual-core handsets for long. Samsung has already been chirping about its own dual-core processor, code-named "Orion,"



that's slated to replace the "Hummingbird" chip that's powering its current crop of Galaxy S smartphones. Other handset manufacturers are

sure to follow.

In other words, that 1GHz smartphone in your pocket (and in mine, too)? So yesterday, my friend. □





# 'Pink Panther' director Blake Edwards dies



LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning director Blake Edwards, who made the “Pink Panther” movies and the 1961 classic “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” has died at the age of 88, his agent said Thursday. Edwards worked with some cinema legends such as Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in a career stretching more than half a century. But he is probably most well known for the “Pink Panther” series starting in 1963, in which bumbling Inspector Clouseau played by British actor Peter Sellers hunts

David Niven’s aristocratic jewel thief Sir Charles Lytton. He also rated actress Bo Derek a perfect “10” in the 1979 film of that name with Dudley Moore.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded Edwards who was married to actress Julie Andrews -- an honorary lifetime achievement Oscar in 2004.

His agent Lou Pitt confirmed he had died, while the “Entertainment Tonight” news show and website reported that he died in Santa Monica on Wednesday night from

complications of pneumonia, with Andrews at his side.

Born William Blake Crump in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 26, 1922, Edwards was a stepson of stage director Jack McEdwards. He grew up in the film business, went to school with children of Hollywood stars and roomed with actor Mickey Rooney.

After a brief stint as an actor, Edwards mastered behind-the-camera crafts including screenwriting, directing and producing. He began as a script writer for a radio detective show where the first glimmers of his humor appeared.

The “Pink Panther” movies with their infectious theme music scored by Henri Mancini were immediate blockbusters, although Edwards did not always see eye to eye with Sellers.

The men clashed on the set, but Edwards allowed Sellers to make a bumbler out of Clouseau and move the character to the center of the plot. It worked.

They made seven films all together between 1964 and

1978. But the relationship between the two men soured, and at the time of Sellers’ death in 1980, Edwards was working on a new Clouseau movie without him.

“Peter Sellers became a monster. He just got bored with the part and became angry, sullen and unprofessional,” Edwards said in remarks on the industry website imdb.

In the end Edwards was to work closest with Andrews, who ditched her most holy image as the nun Maria in the “Sound of Music” to play a cross-dresser in his 1992 film and 1995 stage production of “Victor/Victoria.”

She even famously bared her breasts in his 1981 film, “S.O.B.”

Art imitating life became a natural and recurring theme for Edwards, and he was accused of doing just that in “S.O.B.,” about a director whose wholesome film starring his wife bombs.

To save the movie, the director decides to make it steamier and win a Restricted rating by adding nude shots of his wife,

but Edwards was accused of manipulating Andrews.

As for the one actor he liked to work with best, Edwards named Jack Lemmon. He played Jack Clay, who slides into alcoholism with his wife, played by Lee Remick, in the 1962 film “Days of Wine and Roses.”

Edwards tackled a wide variety of topics, including the coming-out story of “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” an adaptation of a novel by Truman Capote, earning Oscars for Audrey Hepburn, Mancini and Johnny Mercer, who wrote the lyrics to “Moon River.”

When asked why he took on the Herculean task of staging “Victor/Victoria” on Broadway, he replied: “I needed to do it for me, and I needed to do it for Julie. “She needed a challenge,” he added in a 1996 PBS interview.

Edwards is survived by Andrews, his second wife, whom he married in 1969, along with their five children and two children from his previous marriage. □

## Duran Duran goes forward on new album by going back

NEW YORK — Duran Duran rose to fame in the 1980s with stylized videos that fueled the early MTV generation, and in recent years has sold out live shows by playing old hits such as “Hungry Like a Wolf” and “The Reflex.”

But with a new album, “All You Need is Now,” set for release on December 21, the band whose synthesized pop rock helped usher in the New Wave of the ‘80s is updating its sound for a younger generation while still offering a taste of their past.

The band Roger Taylor, John Taylor, Simon Le Bon and Nick Rhodes called on uber-producer Mark Ronson for their 13th studio album, which features 12 new tracks.

“We all wanted to get a little bit more experimental with this record. We wanted to reconnect with fans, on the territory on which the band,

and Mark Ronson who is the producer, felt we should own. And that was this kind of modern synth, dance, experimental, pop music,” Le Bon told Reuters.

With hits like “Girls on Film,” “Rio” and “Save a Prayer,” Duran Duran sold tens of millions of LP’s, cassettes and CD’s and logged numerous top 10 hits in a 30-year span that also saw major changes in the way music has been distributed online.

Now, the band is embracing the digital age. The new album’s first single, also titled “All You Need Is Now,” has been available for about a week, free, on iTunes, and the album will also be sold on Apple’s popular music site before CDs are available in stores in February.

“The way that people consume music is obviously radically different than the way it was

even ten years ago,” said Rhodes, who started Duran Duran with John Taylor in 1978.

### REKINDLED SPIRIT

Unlike some music veterans who are turning their backs on the industry in an age when inexpensive downloads of singles have decimated CD sales, Rhodes said he was now excited for the first time in a long time. The reason is the new CD.

“This album has been such a joy to make because of what we have achieved with it,” he said. “It really drives you to want to go play shows and introduce these songs to the audience.”

New songs have titles such as “Girl Panic!”, “Safe (in the heat of the moment)”, “Being Followed”, “Leave a Light on” and “The Man Who Stole a Leopard,” which features singer Kelis.



Ronson, a DJ and solo artist who has produced for the likes of Christina Aguilera and Amy Winehouse, went back to the early Duran Duran records to update what once worked. He has said he thinks of “All You Need is Now” as the “imaginary followup to ‘Rio’ that never was.”

Yet, the producer takes Duran Duran’s synthesized sound and twists their formidable beats and rhythms into modern songs that the band hopes will please loyalists and win new fans.

While Ronson is the producer, Rhodes and the band still write and perform all the songs, and

Rhodes said that his love for music -- while it may have changed over the years -- never completely went away.

“If you have it in your blood and in your mind and in your spirit that you want to make music, you don’t really have the urge to stop,” he said.

“I wake up with a tune in my head or I scribble down some words most days. Later, I might rub it out and think ‘nah, that wasn’t any good.’ But you keep thinking about the process all the time.”

Duran Duran plans to begin a tour early next year and hopes to play in countries like China and India for the first time. □



# BUSINESS

## Aruba TODAY

### Feds identify best places for solar on US lands

LOS ANGELES — A draft plan identifying prime areas for solar energy projects on public lands in the Southwest was released Thursday by the Interior Department in an effort to speed up development.

The draft identifies 24 so-called solar energy zones in California, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona that have the highest potential for solar development with the fewest environmental impacts. The plan announced during a conference call in Washington, D.C., also proposes to open an additional 21 million acres of land to potential solar development.

“The steps taken today help ensure that the United States will lead the world in energy technologies critical for meeting our energy goals and for sustaining economic growth,” said Henry Kelly, principal deputy assistant secretary for energy efficiency and renewable energy with the Department of Energy.

Federal officials said there will be a 90-day public comment period and a series of public meetings in the Southwest, as well as Washington. The final report, which aims to reduce conflicts and delays later in the process, will be released in 2011, according to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.

The solar industry welcomed the draft report, which had been in the works since 2008. “This announcement builds on the solar industry’s momentum over the past year surpassing all of last year’s growth through the third quarter, as well as the approval of the first eight utility-scale solar projects on public lands,” said Rhone Resch, the head of the Solar Energy Industries Association. “To put this in perspective, 74,000 permits were issued for oil and gas drilling on public lands over the past twenty years.”

Congress in 2005 gave the Interior Department a goal to approve 10,000 megawatts,

or about 5 million homes’ worth during peak hours, of renewable energy on public lands by 2015.

Although the Bureau of Land Management opened federally owned lands in 2005 to solar development, an examination of records and interviews of officials by The Associated Press showed the program operated a first-come, first-served leasing system that quickly overwhelmed its small staff.

The system also enabled companies, regardless of solar industry experience, to squat on land without any real plans to develop it.

Increasing the approval of solar projects has been a key goal for the Obama administration. The Interior Department identified 14 of the most promising solar projects on federally owned land on a list to be fast-tracked. Federal officials predict that solar projects could one day contribute up to 24,000



megawatts of electricity enough to keep 16 million homes powered at peak use.

Conservationists poring over the draft report’s estimated 10,000 pages said they are pleased the federal government is finally outlining a program to more quickly approve good solar projects. The Department of Energy on Thursday also announced efforts to fund up to \$50 million to test and demonstrate cutting-edge

solar technologies.

Many environmentalists, like Alex Daue, renewable energy coordinator at The Wilderness Society, however, said they are concerned about the proposal to open additional acreage beyond the vetted zones.

“The opportunity here is to speed responsible development and limit impact,” he said. “Why not focus on areas with the best chance of success and the least environmental impact?” □



WASHINGTON — The economy appeared to be gaining traction, with data on Thursday showing new claims for jobless aid fell last week and factory activity in the Mid-Atlantic region grew at its quickest pace in more than 5-1/2 years this month.

The reports added to growing evidence of a substantial pick-up in economic growth during the fourth quarter, even though housing data pointed to continued stress in the sector.

“The recovery is gaining some momentum. Manufacturing output is strong, layoffs are slowing and we think GDP growth will be somewhere between 3 and 4 percent in the fourth quarter,” said Mark Vitner, a senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits fell 3,000 to 420,000, the Labor Department said, in line with forecasts and a recent downward trend. The closely

### Upbeat data buoys growth view as housing stays weak

watched four-week moving average of claims dropped for a sixth straight week to a fresh two-year low.

In a separate report, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank said its business activity index rose to 24.3, the highest level since April 2005, from 22.5 in November. Economists had expected a reading of 15.0. Any reading above zero indicates expansion in the region’s manufacturing output. The upbeat data and a bullish forecast from FedEx Corp, the second-largest package delivery company, lifted U.S. stocks. FedEx, however, reported quarterly earnings that missed estimates. Prices for U.S. government

debt were marginally higher, while the dollar rallied against the euro and yen.

#### RECOVERY ELUDES HOUSING

In another report, the Commerce Department said housing starts rose 3.9 percent to an annual rate of 555,000 units in November. However, permits for future home construction dropped to a 1-1/2-year low.

“The housing sector does not appear to be participating in the recent improvement in economic activity,” said Paul Dales, a U.S. economist at Capital Economics in Toronto. Data over the past few days covering retail sales, trade and industrial production indicate

gross domestic product growth this quarter could easily outstrip the modest 2.5 percent rate of the July-September period. Though growth has been largely driven by the manufacturing sector, consumer spending is picking up as labor market conditions improve somewhat. The major blemish in the data in recent weeks, however, was a jump in the unemployment rate.

The Philadelphia Fed survey, which closely correlates to the Institute for Supply Management’s report on national manufacturing due early next month, mirrored similar gains in a gauge of New York state factory activity released on Wednesday. □



## HEALTH

## Aruba TODAY

## Irish abortion ban violates women's rights



DUBLIN — Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion violates pregnant women's right to receive proper medical care in life-threatening cases, the European Court of Human Rights ruled Thursday, harshly criticizing Ireland's long inaction on the issue.

The Strasbourg, France-based court ruled that a pregnant woman fighting cancer should have been allowed to get an abortion in Ireland in 2005 rather than being forced to go to England for the procedure. The judgment put Ireland under pressure to draft a law extending abortion rights to women whose pregnancies represent a potentially fatal threat to their own health. But Catholic leaders and anti-abortion activists insisted that Ireland had no legal obligation to do anything despite the court ruling.

Cardinal Sean Brady, leader of Ireland's 4 million Catholics, said the ruling "leaves future policy in Ireland on protecting the lives of unborn children in the hands of the Irish people and does not oblige Ireland to introduce legislation authorizing abortion."

Ireland has failed to pass any laws supporting a 1992 judgment from the Irish Supreme Court that said Ireland should provide abortions in cases where a woman's life is endangered including, controversially, by her own threats to commit suicide. The 18-year delay has created

a legal limbo, forcing many women to travel overseas for an abortion rather than rely on Irish doctors fearful of being prosecuted.

In an 11-6 verdict, the 17 Strasbourg judges said Ireland was wrong to keep the legal situation unclear and said the Irish government had offered no credible explanation for its failure. The Irish judge on the panel, Mary Finlay Geoghegan, sided with that majority view.

The judges wrote that Ireland's failure "has resulted in a striking discordance between the theoretical right to a lawful abortion in Ireland on grounds of a relevant risk to a woman's life, and the reality of its practical implementation."

Under Irish law dating back to 1861, a doctor and patient both could be prosecuted for murder if an abortion was later deemed not to be medically necessary.

The Strasbourg court broadly upheld Ireland's right to outlaw abortion in the overwhelming majority of cases because that reflects "the profound moral values of the Irish people in respect of the right to life of the unborn." Voters in this predominantly Catholic nation enshrined that ban into the Irish Constitution in 1983.

But the court found Ireland guilty of violating one woman's rights.

The lawsuit dates back to 2005, when the Irish Family

Planning Association sued Ireland's government on behalf of three women who traveled overseas that year for abortions: an Irish woman who had four previous children placed in state care, an Irish woman who didn't want to become a single mother, and a Lithuanian woman living in Ireland who was in remission from a rare form of cancer.

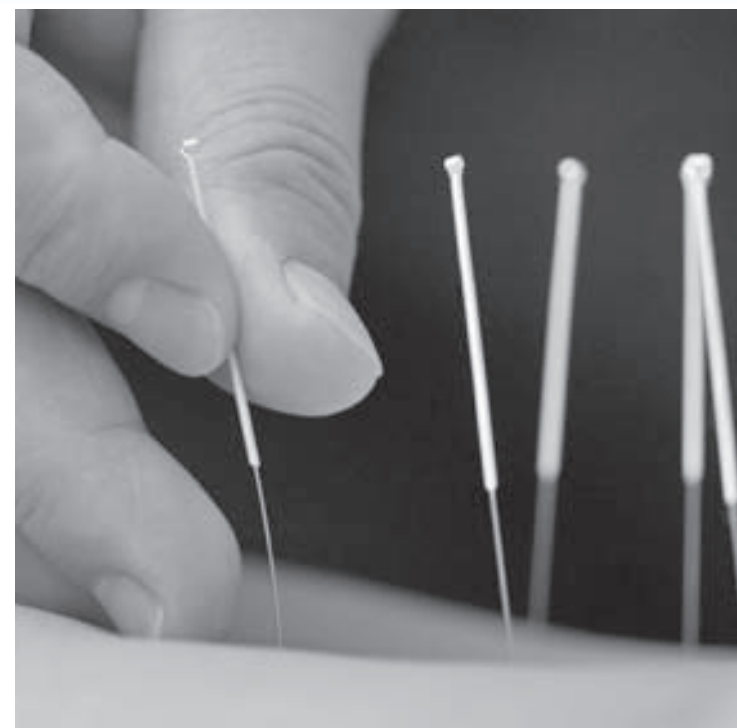
The judges said the first two women had failed to demonstrate that their pregnancies represented a sufficient risk to their health, but the Lithuanian woman faced a life-threatening situation. It ordered Ireland to pay her euro15,000 (\$20,000) in damages.

The judges lambasted Ireland's defense claiming that the woman should have petitioned the Irish High Court for the right to have an abortion in Ireland. They said Irish doctors must be given clear legal guidance on the eligibility rules for abortions. Health Minister Mary Harney said she was confident that Ireland would draft legislation to bring the country's laws into line with its own Supreme Court but said the step would have to wait for the next government. Ireland faces an unscheduled national election in the spring.

"Clearly we have to legislate, there's no doubt about that," Harney said. "But I don't think we have the capacity to bring forward proposals in a matter of weeks."

Harney noted that the government twice tried to resolve the issue with referendums in 1992 and 2001, but voters on both sides of the abortion argument rejected that constitutional amendment. In both cases, the government sought to limit the right to legal abortion only to cases where the woman was at risk of death but excluding suicide threats.

*Continued on Next Page*



## Could acupuncture be used to treat "lazy eye?"

NEW YORK - Sticking acupuncture needles into points on the body classically associated with vision in Chinese medicine could prove to be an alternative to bothersome patches or drops for older children with a "lazy eye," suggests new research.

Children who received needling from a certified acupuncturist saw similar improvement in their affected eyes as those who underwent the standard treatment of wearing a patch over the strong eye for a couple hours a day in order to strengthen the weak eye: Most participants in both groups advanced two lines or more on an eye chart over the course of the study.

Experts don't recommend that parents swap out patches for acupuncture treatments just yet, however. Further research is needed to confirm the findings and to better understand just how the therapy works.

"Acupuncture has been used for a lot of things in Chinese medicine," senior researcher Dr. Robert Ritch of the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, told Reuters Health. "And it's being used more and more in the West. But evidence-based medicine to see what it actually does is relatively lacking."

Up to 5 percent of people around the world suffer from amblyopia, a condition characterized by poor vision in one eye and colloquially called lazy eye. It is the most common cause of vision problems in children.

Between 30 and 50 percent of amblyopia cases are caused by differences in the degree of nearsightedness or farsightedness between the two eyes, termed anisometropic amblyopia.

The problem can be corrected with glasses or contact lenses if caught at an early age. But both are less effective for children beyond about the age of 7, who have traditionally been treated with patches.

"Patching can be annoying for kids," Dr. Matthew Gearinger of the University of Rochester, New York, who was not involved in the study, told Reuters Health. "It may be socially tough to wear a patch at school, and wearing a patch at home can interfere with homework."

Specially medicated eye drops, another common treatment, blur sight in the good eye and can also make homework difficult, added Gearinger. □



**ABORTION**

*Continued from Previous Page*

She said lawmakers would face a “highly sensitive and complex” debate over what specific definitions should apply for life-threatening conditions. She said pregnant women suffering from cervical cancer, exceptionally high blood pressure or ectopic pregnancies already were receiving abortions in Irish hospitals.

The vast majority of nations in the 47-member Council of Europe permit broad access to abortion, most recently Spain, which legalized first-trimester abortions in July. Only Malta and Vatican City ban the practice outright, while several others seek to limit it to exceptional cases including rape and fetal abnormalities. European Court of Human Rights judgments are legally binding but difficult to enforce. Council of Europe nations often take years to enact the legal reforms ordered. An offending nation that refuses to observe a court order could be expelled from the Council of Europe, but this has never happened.

Thursday’s judgment was the first by the Strasbourg court against Ireland since 1988, when Dublin gay activist David Norris successfully sued the Irish government over its law defining homosexuality as a crime. Ireland legalized homosexuality in 1993. The Irish Family Planning Association and an Irish lobbying group, Doctors for Choice, welcomed Thursday’s verdict.

“Doctors can feel vindicated today. For the first time we can feel confident about discussing abortion as an option for women in medical need without fearing prosecution,” said Dr. Mary Favier, director of Doctors for Choice. □

But William Binchy, a Trinity College Dublin law professor who advises Ireland’s Pro Life Campaign, said the judgment did not explicitly order Ireland to pass any new legislation. He said Ireland should kick the issue back to the public for a fourth referendum.

“What’s at stake in this debate is the value of life. The sad experience is that once laws permitting abortion are introduced, they diminish the society’s respect for the inherent value of every human life, born or unborn,” Binchy said. □

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# Docs Claim Transplant Cured Man of HIV, But Experts Urge Caution



In a rare case, a man living in Germany who had both leukemia and AIDS no longer has any detectable HIV cells in his blood following a stem cell transplant for his leukemia three years ago.

But experts were quick to caution that the case does not have practical implications for the treatment of AIDS worldwide.

As it turns out, the donor for that transplant carried a rare mutation in a gene that increases immunity against the most common form of HIV. First reported in 2009, this follow-up study, published online in the journal *Blood*, confirms that the recipient patient is still free of both leukemia and HIV three years after the transplant.

But one expert issued strong words of caution in interpreting the finding.

"Our phones have been ringing off the hook," said Dr. Margaret Fischl, director of the AIDS clinical research unit at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

"We are having patients calling us and asking if they can stop their antiretroviral therapy -- and the answer is uncategorically no."

The theory is that if you could wipe out every infected cell you could cure HIV, Fischl said, but this is a unique case. The patient had intense chemotherapy and radiation, then relapsed and was given a second transplant from the same donor. The donor was unique in that he had a gene that could fight the most common form of HIV. This mutation is seen in about one in every million people, Fischl explained.

"How much did a second transplant contribute to the slow takeover of the donor cells that are resistant to one form of HIV? The extent that that happened is remarkable," she said.

However, this patient also was infected with another form of HIV as well, Fischl said. "What they are hoping is that the chemotherapy and radiation therapy wiped out

that form, too. Could that patient still rebound with HIV in the future? Yes," she said. This treatment also carries with it a 30 percent risk of death, Fischl added.

"That he was young and got through it is quite remarkable," she said. "I would never give this to a healthy patient. I could never justify it. If you use this therapy, 30 percent of your patients could die from the intervention."

Fischl said the study does present new ways to look for an HIV cure, however. "This is leading to looking at gene therapy in a totally different way," she said.

"We tell our patients that this was a very particular situation. What made this work was that

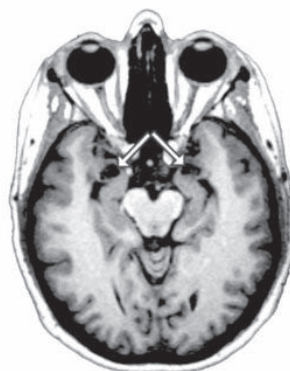
he got a very rare donor. It opens doors for us, but we are years away from potentially making gene therapy more broadly available," Fischl said. "It shows us the hurdles we have to get over to get to the cure."

Rowena Johnston, director of research at the Foundation for AIDS Research, also added a note of caution but said that the case "speaks to the promise of research."

"We need to be clear that what was done for this patient was not something that can be done on a wide scale," Johnston said. "It really was a lucky case for this one guy that all the stars aligned and that all of the factors that needed to come together really did."

However, gene therapy might be an avenue to pursue, Johnston said. "We're a long way from that. There's a lot of technology that needs to be perfected, there's a lot of issues that need to be considered in terms of how you would deliver this to patients in a safe way and how the long-term effectiveness of that treatment might pan out," she said. But the man's example has given gene therapy a "shot in the arm," Johnston said. "It's not just a pipe dream any more, somebody has been cured and we need to work out how we can come up with a cure that will be more readily available to everybody out there who needs it. That's over 30 million people living with HIV." □

## Spiders, snakes? Brain-damaged woman knows no fear



NEW YORK – Meet SM, a 44-year-old woman who literally knows no fear. She's not afraid to handle snakes. She's not afraid of the "The Blair Witch Project," "The Shining," or "Arachnophobia." When she visited a haunted house, it was a monster who was afraid of

her.

SM isn't some cold-blooded psychopath or a hero with a tight rein on her emotions. She's an ordinary mother of three with a specific psychological impairment, the result of a very rare genetic disease that damaged a brain structure called the amygdala (uh-MIG'-duh-luh).

Her case shows that the amygdala plays a key role in making people feel afraid in threatening situations, researchers say.

Her life history also shows that living without fear can be dangerous, they said.

A study of her fearlessness was published online Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*

by University of Iowa researcher Justin Feinstein and colleagues. As is typical, the paper identifies her only as "SM." Feinstein declined to make SM available for an interview with The Associated Press, citing laboratory policy about confidentiality.

An expert unconnected with the study cautioned against drawing conclusions about the amygdala, noting that her own work with a similarly brain-damaged woman found no such impairment. But another expert said the new finding made sense.

SM has been studied for more than 20 years, and many papers have been published about her fear-related abnormalities. She has trouble recognizing fear in facial expressions, for example. In another experiment, published in 1995, she was blasted with a loud horn every time she saw a blue-colored square appear on a screen. Despite the repeated blasting horn, she never developed the fear an ordinary person would feel when seeing the blue square. Other research shows SM scores normally on tests of intelligence, memory and language, and she experiences emotions other than fear. She lives independently.

SM recalls being afraid as a child, like the time she was cornered by a snarling Doberman pinscher. □

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# Brasileña Rousseff designa ministros clave

BRASILIA (Reuters) - La presidenta electa de Brasil, Dilma Rousseff, designó a un veterano diplomático como ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y a un experimentado economista como secretario del Tesoro, informó el miércoles su equipo de transición. Los anuncios están en línea con los esfuerzos de Rousseff de mantener jugadores clave del Gobierno de su mentor político, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, quien ha ganado inmensa popularidad gracias a varios años de fuerte crecimiento económico. Rousseff, quien asume la

presidencia el 1 de enero, designó a Antonio Patriota, ex embajador ante Estados Unidos, como nuevo ministro de Relaciones Exteriores para reemplazar a Celso Amorim. Se espera que Patriota, en la actualidad número dos de la Cancillería, mantenga el curso de la política exterior pero podría ser menos confrontativo que Amorim en asuntos como Irán. Amorim defendió repetidamente la relación de Brasil con Irán, incluyendo un acuerdo de intercambio de combustible nuclear, mediado con la ayuda de Turquía, que produjo un torrente de críticas

de Estados Unidos. Rousseff mantendrá al secretario del Tesoro Arno Agustin en su puesto. Agustin encabezó los esfuerzos del país de este año para frenar una escalada de la moneda al crear impuestos sobre algunas inversiones extranjeras en activos brasileños. Además, Nelson Barbosa, actual secretario de política económica que fue considerado como posible candidato para ministro de Finanzas, será el secretario ejecutivo de esa cartera. Barbosa ayudó a organizar algunos de los programas de infraestructura de la administración de Lula y orquestó las medidas de estímulo de Brasil en medio de la crisis financiera global. El nuevo secretario de política económica del Ministerio de Finanzas será Marcio Holland de Brito, dijo la cartera. El equipo de transición también confirmó que el ministro de Defensa, Nelson Jobim, se mantendrá en su puesto cuando Rousseff asuma. □



Foto de archivo del ministro de Relaciones Exteriores designado de Brasil, Antonio Patriota, en Brasilia, nov 21 2006. REUTERS/Jamil Bittar/Files

## Mercosur alcanza acuerdo de diálogo político con Cuba

FOZ DO IGUAZU, Brasil (AP) - Los países del Mercosur firmaron el jueves un acuerdo de asociación con Cuba que contempla diálogo político entre las dos partes y abre las puertas para que la isla se integre como miembro asociado del bloque suramericano. “Es muy importante la asociación de Cuba con Mercosur, es importante para la evolución de Cuba y su inserción en el mundo”, comentó el ministro brasileño de Relaciones Exteriores, Celso Amorim, tras la firma del entendimiento.

Mercosur, formado por Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay y Uruguay, tiene como miembros asociados a Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú, mientras Venezuela adhirió como miembro pleno, para lo cual recibió el aval de los parlamentos de tres de los países socios, faltando solo el del Senado paraguayo.

Amorim explicó que el entendimiento con Cuba prevé realizar consultas políticas y una mayor aproximación económica con el país isleño de gobierno comunista.

Aclaró que el pacto no busca convertir a Cuba en miembro pleno del bloque, lo cual lo obligaría a adoptar la tarifa externa común del Mercosur. La intención, dijo, es que llegue a ser miembro asociado, con lo cual podrá tener una participación mayor en las reuniones del bloque.

Por su parte, el asesor internacional de Lula, Marco Aurelio Garcia, comentó que el acuerdo se inserta en el esfuerzo general de los países latinoamericanos de evitar el aislamiento de Cuba y acercarla más a la comunidad regional.

“La economía de Cuba se está diversificando, la reforma económica va a propiciar el surgimiento de negocios pequeños y medianos, estimular la asociación de empresas cubanas con empresas extranjeras y todo esto atrae inversionistas”, declaró Garcia. Recordó que Brasil ya ha apoyado la tendencia cubana de reforma y desarrollo económico, con iniciativas de modernización de la agricultura y la reconstrucción del Puerto de Mariel, que a su juicio tendrá una función importante “cuando Estados Unidos y Cuba restablezcan relaciones diplomáticas”. □

## Ecuador mantiene política para sostener la dolarización

QUITO (Reuters) - Ecuador mantiene una política “coherente” encaminada a sostener la dolarización, aunque su sector comercial podría convertirse en un dolor de cabeza para la economía del país, dijo el jueves el presidente del Banco Central, Diego Borja.

El socio más pequeño de la OPEP, adoptó la dolarización en el 2000 para controlar la inflación y estabilizar la economía local, en medio de una de las peores crisis financieras de su historia que llevó a la quiebra de decenas de bancos.

“La política del Gobierno, lo ha dicho el presidente de la República, es sostener la dolarización. Yo creo que ha habido ahí una serie de acciones coherentes como para sostener el sistema”, dijo Borja a periodistas.

Correa, quien dice impulsar el socialismo del siglo XXI en la nación, ha cuestionado en varias ocasiones la dolarización, pero ha señalado que sería un “suicidio” salirse del sistema monetario, muy popular entre

los ecuatorianos.

El Gobierno ha restringido importaciones y ha repatriado capitales de los bancos en el exterior para asegurar el ingreso de dólares a la economía ecuatoriana, que alcanzaría los 62.000 millones de dólares en el 2011, según datos oficiales.

Hasta el momento, el Gobierno ha conseguido la repatriación de unos 700 millones de dólares que los bancos privados mantenían circulando en el exterior, dijo Borja.

Esos recursos han sido canalizados para el crédito productivo a través del sistema bancario privado. La banca pública también ha jugado un papel clave en la inyección de recursos al mercado local. No obstante, en el tema comercial aún los problemas persisten por los saldos negativos registrados en la balanza comercial del país, aunque las autoridades esperan que los altos precios del petróleo aporten al ingreso de divisas. □





# CHINOLATINO

WHERE FOOD MEANS FUN

## Monday

Wok Night \$ 12.50  
Wine \$ 4.00  
Every day Mojitos \$ 5.00

## Tuesday

Fajitas \$ 15.00  
Sangria Glass \$ 3.50  
Every Day Mojitos \$ 5.00

## Wednesday

Ribs \$ 20.00 Buy One Rack get one FREE  
Every Day Mojitos \$ 5.00

## Thursday

"Brazilian Night"  
Steak Brochetes \$ 15.00  
Caipirinhas 2 x 1  
Every Day Mojitos \$ 5.00

## Friday

Sushi Night \$ 10.00 / \$ 1.00 Pc  
Martinis \$ 6.00  
Every Friday the Best Dj's of the Island  
Every Day Mojitos \$ 5.00

## Saturday

Local Fisherman Night \$ 20.00  
Cuba Libre \$ 4.50  
Latin Night Guest Dj's  
Every Day Mojitos \$ 5.00

## Sunday

BBQ Night \$ 14.95  
Sangria Glass \$ 3.50  
Every Day Mojitos \$ 5.00

